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CASE FILED

Controversy erupts over Adoor's remarks

SOUTH » PAGE 7

PROTEST ANNIVERSARY

BNP sceptical about July Charter in Bangladesh

WORLD » PAGE 14

PRESSURE ON NETANYAHU

Ex-Israeli officers urge Trump to help end war

WORLD » PAGE 14

STATE OF PLAY

The race for the Catholic vote in Kerala

Nuns' arrest puts every party on high alert

OPINION » PAGE 9

CRIMINAL DEFAMATION CASE

SC stays proceedings against Rahul Gandhi

NEWS » PAGE 11

HC calls for putting on hold RTC strike by a day; unions stick to their guns

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

While orally observing that the State government is paying [free] for the passengers, but is not ready to pay for the staff, the High Court of Karnataka on Monday directed the trade unions of the State public transport corporations to put their call for an indefinite strike on hold for a day to enable the court to know the outcome of the ongoing negotiations between the representatives of the unions and the Chief Minister

However, the JAC of the transport corporation employees has announced that the strike will begin from 6 a.m. on Tuesday. Ananth Subba Rao, president of the KSRTC Staff and Workers' Federation, told *The Hindu* that the strike would not be withdrawn.

A Division Bench, comprising Justice K.S. Mudagal and Justice M.G.S. Kamal, passed an interim order on a PIL petition filed by Sunil J. and six others, all are commuters from Bengaluru city who use the buses of the transport corporations for their daily travel.

"If the entire public transport operation is stalled, the public are likely to be put to hardship. Therefore, it would be appropriate to grant interim stay till tomorrow awaiting the outcome of negotiations of the unions with the government," the court said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 5
RELATED REPORT ON
» PAGE 2

Centre hits back after Trump threatens more tariffs on India

Tariffs 'paid by India' will be substantially raised as it keeps profiting from Russian oil, says U.S. President

MEA says U.S. 'actively encouraged' Russian imports since war in Ukraine, points at EU's trade with Russia

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

Less than a week after he announced a 25% tariff on imports from India "plus a penalty", U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday once again raised the issue of India buying oil from Russia and profiting from it. He stated that he would be "substantially" raising the tariff "paid by India to the USA". It should be noted that such tariffs are paid by importers in the U.S., rather than the country on which the tariffs are levied.

The Indian government hit back at Mr. Trump's statements and also criticism from European countries on India's trade with Russia, saying that such "targeting of India" was "unjustified and unreasonable". In a statement, the government pointed out that not only did the U.S. encourage such trade previously, both the European Union and the U.S. continue to actively trade with Russia at levels significantly higher than India's."

"India is not only buying massive amounts of Russian Oil, they are then, for much of the Oil purchased, selling it on the Open Market for big profits," Mr. Trump posted on the social network Truth Social. "They don't care how many people in Ukraine are being killed by the Russian War Machine. Because of this, I will be substantially raising the Tariff paid by India to the USA. [sic]"

The Ministry of External Affairs responded to the statement, saying that the U.S. had previously "actively encouraged" the import of Russian oil.

> They [India] don't care how many people in Ukraine are being killed by the Russian War Machine. Because of this, I will be substantially raising the Tariff paid by India to the USA
> DONALD TRUMP, U.S. President

> It is revealing that the very nations criticising India are themselves indulging in trade with Russia. Unlike our case, such trade is not even a vital national compulsion
> MEA STATEMENT

"India has been targeted by the United States and the European Union for importing oil from Russia after the commencement of the Ukraine conflict," the official spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs said. "In fact, India began importing from Russia because traditional supplies were diverted to Europe after the outbreak of the conflict. The United States at that time actively encouraged such imports by India for strengthening global energy markets stability." The MEA's statement added that India's oil imports from Russia are meant to ensure "predictable and affordable energy costs" for the Indian consumer. "They are a necessity compelled by the global market situation," it added. "However, it is revealing that the very nations criticising India are themselves indulging in trade with Russia. Unlike our case, such trade is not even a vital national compulsion."

The MEA said that the European Union in 2024 had a bilateral trade of €67.5 billion in goods with Russia, in addition to a trade in services estimated at €17.2 billion in 2023.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10
INDIA AND THE TRUMP ERA
» PAGE 14

NEARBY

Panel submits report on SC internal quota

BENGALURU
The over-three-decade struggle for internal reservation among the 101 Scheduled Castes in Karnataka reached a crucial point on Monday with the one-man commission headed by retired judge H.N. Nagamohan Das submitting its report with six recommendations. » Page 6

Modi likely to take a ride on Namma Metro

BENGALURU
Along with launching Yellow Line, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to take a ride on the metro and also flag off the extended Vande Bharat Express to Belagavi. » Page 2

Siraj sizzles as India pulls off a dramatic win at The Oval

Shayan Acharya
LONDON

It took India 56 minutes and 53 balls to mop up England's lower-order and clinch an incredible six-run win on the final day of the fifth Test at The Oval on Monday. The maiden Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy series ended 2-2.

After 25 days of riveting action, the best was saved for the last as Shubman Gill's men rode on Mohammed Siraj's sensational spell to pull off a remarkable victory.

Chasing a target of 374, the hosts required 35 runs with four wickets in hand on Day Five. England was looking for a Test series win against India at home after a gap of seven years – it had last won 4-1 in 2018. But, Siraj and Prasidh Krishna proved a lethal combination as the visitors tasted their third success at the iconic venue, the previous ones coming in 1971 and 2021.

It was a litmus test for an Indian team in transition, but the young side showed heart and character as it fought back from tough situations to share the honours.

Siraj, who sent down more than 1,000 deliveries in the series, sparkled on an overcast morning as India began a new era in style.

Siraj was named Player-of-the-Match for his nine-wicket haul in the Test while Gill and Harry Brook were adjudged Player-of-the-Series for their teams.

REDEMPTION TALE
» PAGE 15
EDITORIAL
» PAGE 8

Mission accomplished: India's five-wicket hero Mohammed Siraj celebrates after dismissing England's Gus Atkinson to seal a narrow victory at The Oval on Monday, helping the visitors share the honours 2-2 in the five-match series for the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy. GETTY IMAGES

Lok Sabha disrupted as Opposition seeks debate on Bihar SIR

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Parliament did not function on Monday with Opposition parties disrupting the Lok Sabha over demands for a discussion on the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar.

When the House convened in the morning, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla began proceedings with the Question Hour. However, the Opposition members disrupted and began protesting.

Mr. Birla reminded them that ever since the Monsoon Session had begun, the House could not pass any Bill due to repeated disruptions. He said if the members had any issue, they could meet him for a discussion but allow the Question Hour to proceed as many important issues are raised during the time to which the government replies.

"I will give each of you enough time to raise your issues like I did in the past, but please allow the House to run," he said, adjourning the House till 2 p.m.

The Opposition floor leaders, including Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, had last week written to the Speaker seeking a debate on the SIR.

Shortly after the adjournment, around 11.30 a.m., the Speaker met Opposition floor leaders in a bid to break the deadlock. However, the talks did not yield any result as the latter remained firm on a discussion on electoral reforms while making a concession that they will not insist on naming the debate after the SIR of electoral rolls.

When the House reassembled at 2 p.m., Opposition MPs, including those from the Congress were again on their feet, raising slogans and holding placards demanding a discussion on the SIR.

EC made draft SIR rolls 'difficult' to analyse: parties

NEW DELHI
Opposition parties in Bihar on Monday accused the Election Commission of India (EC) of "deliberately" making it "difficult" for them to compare the electoral rolls issued ahead of the Lok Sabha election in January 2024 with the draft rolls published on August 1 as part of the special intensive revision, even as the poll panel said that no party has filed any claim and objection over names in the list. » PAGE 11

BJP's appeals

Bharatiya Janata Party MP Jagdambika Pal, who was in the chair, said two key sports Bills were listed for discussion and justice would not be done to sportspersons if the Bills were not debated and passed. Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju and Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya also made similar appeals. Mr. Pal then adjourned the House for the day.

In the Rajya Sabha, proceedings were adjourned as a mark of respect following the death of sitting member Shibu Soren. Deputy Chairman Harivansh read out an obituary.

RIJIJU DISMISSES DEMAND
» PAGE 11

'Vote theft': Cong. postpones protest following Shibu Soren's death

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar on Monday said that the Congress' protest against "vote theft" scheduled for August 5 here has been postponed to August 8 following the death of former Jharkhand Chief Minister Shibu Soren.

As AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi are travelling to Jharkhand on Tuesday to pay their final respects to the departed leader, the protest has been postponed.

Speaking to reporters at Freedom Park, the venue of the protest, here, Mr. Shivakumar said, "Shibu Soren is a senior leader from the tribal community and an alliance partner of the Congress. It is our duty to pay him our respects. Mr. Rahul Gandhi and Mr. Mallikarjun Kharge will pay their final respects to the departed leader. In view of his final rites taking place on Tuesday, we have decided to postpone the protest against "vote theft".

"Shibu Soren stood by the Congress in difficult times. He also stood by the ideology of the Congress. May his soul rest in peace," he added. "The Varamahalakshmi festival falls on August 8. But we have decided to give priority to the party work. We will ensure that there are no obstacles for the public to celebrate the festival. Senior leaders have instructed us to conduct the legislative party meeting once again, and we will discuss it with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah," he said.

A policeman stands guard at Freedom Park in Bengaluru on Monday, the venue of the Congress protest that has since been postponed. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 5

Former Jharkhand CM Shibu Soren dies

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Former Jharkhand Chief Minister and Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) co-founder Shibu Soren passed away in Delhi on Monday. He was 81.

Mr. Soren had been undergoing treatment for kidney-related problems at the Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in Delhi for more than a month. His son, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren, announced the death in a post on social media platform X. "Respected Dishom Guruji has left us all... I have become *shunya* [zero] today," Mr. Hemant said. He broke down as party workers raised slogans hailing his father, who played a key role in the creation of Jharkhand.

SHIBU SOREN (1944-2025)

Talking to presspersons in Delhi, Mr. Hemant described his father as a "great man".

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10
REFORMER TO ICON
» PAGE 12

ANI

A gripping series and a fantastic finale

When the dust settled, there was nothing to separate India and England; the visiting team had numerous heroes during the thrill-a-minute 2-2 ride; the sensational victory at The Oval ensured that the series ended with honours even

R. Kaushik
LONDON

How do you describe this series? How do you even begin to start to describe this series? A classic seems too cliched, an epic too obvious.

For five Tests and 25 days and more than 70 sessions, two teams at different ends of the experience spectrum went toe to toe. Shots were fired, counter measures deployed, counterpunches thrown. Sparks flew, tempers frayed, sometimes, shoulders made contact.

When the dust settled, there was nothing to separate England and India. Absolutely nothing. England, the hosts, had a greater volume of Test work coming into this series but India, unyielding India with a youngish batting group and a first-time captain, more than held their own, bouncing back with unbelievable resilience every time they appeared out for the count.

With a little more awareness and a little more luck, India could easily have wrapped their hands around the inaugural Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy. They won more sessions than their seasoned opponents, but the sessions lost came back to haunt them. It appeared as if that trend would spill over to the fifth Test too, though India didn't quite lose the session so much as squander a moment. It was a moment that could have hurt them badly, but such is the unbelievable competitiveness of the man who was the principal actor of that misstep that not even the cricketing gods could stop from smiling down benevolently at him. Finally.

India had numerous heroes during this thrill-a-minute 2-2 ride. Skipper Shubman Gill, who stacked up 754 runs in his first series in that capacity, the most by an Indian captain ever and the second most by an Indian, after Sunil Gavaskar's 774 in the Caribbean in 1971. K.L. Rahul, who compiled twin hundreds in the same series for the first time in his 11-year Test career. Ravindra Jadeja, the third entrant into the 500-run club, who took consistency to a new level with five half-centuries and a ton in nine innings. Rishabh Pant, who slammed two hundreds and three fifties, the last of them on a broken foot in his final innings of the series in Manchester. Yashasvi Jaiswal, who started and ended the series with hundreds. Washington Sundar, who was the hero with the ball at Lord's and with the bat in Manchester with a match-saving unbeaten hundred as well as at the Oval, where his second-innings fifty in the last batter's company pushed England's target from a challenging to an arduous one. Jasprit Bumrah, who picked up 14 wickets despite playing only three Tests. Prasidh Krishna, same number of Tests, same number of wickets as Bumrah, at a higher economy rate but also at a better strike-rate.

And, of course, Mohammed Siraj.

Siraj wore a bemused, slightly offended smile when, during the course of a question, the questioner said he hadn't had a good Border-Gavaskar Trophy series in Australia in the winter. "Sir, I took 20 wickets in that series," he replied, without malice, without a hint of anger or annoyance. So he did, but because Bumrah finished with 32 wickets, many of them top-order scalps unlike here in England, the perception was that India's bowling attack was a one-man army.

Far from it. Siraj was the rock around which Bumrah built his success. Seldom has one man bowled so well for so long and had so little success. Siraj's luck had to turn. It just had to. That it finally did here in England, where he finished with an all-comers' high 23 wickets, has elevated his standing, enhanced his reputation. He has gone from sometime with a huge heart to someone with a huge heart and immense skills, because unfortunately, we live in a world where skill is measured by numbers. Twenty-three has a nice ring to it, apparently.

Driving force

Especially once India lost Pant, Siraj had to be the engine room. The driving force. The enforcer with the ball when Bumrah wasn't around - he wasn't for the two wins, in Birmingham and at The Oval, in what must be put down to coincidence - but also the one to gee up his colleagues, to ensure that energy levels didn't drop, that the fight wasn't given up before the fat lady had sung, that the towel wasn't thrown in prematurely. Without Virat Kohli, he had to be the one to orchestrate the crowd, to get them to lift their decibel levels so that that could in turn lift the team when it was deflated, when it felt that things were slipping away from them. Siraj performed both those roles with aplomb, but never lost sight of the bigger goal, which was to deliver the goods for his team.

Again perhaps coincidentally, both his five-wicket hauls came when Bumrah wasn't in the XI. In Birmingham, his six for 70 in the first innings opened up a 180-run lead that translated into a series-levelling 336-run victory. At The Oval, with the match having seemingly gotten away from them following the Harry Brook-Joe Root fourth-wicket carnage, in part because he himself offered Brook a 'life' with the batter on 19, Siraj found a second wind to finish with five for 104, among them three for nine in 4.1 outstanding overs under great pressure on Monday morning.

India had only 35 runs to play with on the last of 25 days of this riveting series. They had to prise out four wickets to win the Test and square the series, which didn't give Gill, or Siraj and Prasidh, much to work with. But that's all they had; in the end, that's all they needed. In 56 minutes, they encapsulated the series in a nutshell with Siraj as the primary protagonist, and the valiant, wounded Chris Woakes providing a stirring subtext.

Those 56 minutes tested Gill's composure and tactical nous. It will be fair to say that on both counts, he wasn't found wanting. In Leeds, he was understandably a half-step behind the game, chasing the ball with his fields and looking a little lost when England hunted down 371. But as the series progressed and as his bat caught fire, he became more assertive, if not authoritative. He is still a work in progress, but it is impressive to see both the work and the progress. Gill is unafraid to seek out counsel, either from his deputy Pant or the vastly experienced Rahul, who has led India in all three formats previously and is an excellent thinker who relished the responsibility of being the senior statesman of the side.

That status was thrust on Rahul by the retirements of Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and R. Ashwin at various stages in the last eight months. Gill's elevation as Rohit's successor didn't come without raised eyebrows; if he hasn't already silenced the Doubting Thomases, he most certainly won't in the future, but to the young man's credit, he doesn't really care about all those things. That's not to say that he is indifferent or cocooned in his own bubble, that he is disrespectful and self-obsessed. He seems to know what he wants, and how to go about achieving what he wants. His tactics (which, to be fair, aren't all entirely his own alone) might be questioned, but there is a Gill logic to his methodology and Indian cricket must trust his instincts, now more than ever, because he has emphatically earned his spurs.

Fears that India would be blown away in the absence of their two immediate past captains - not so much Ashwin, because he hasn't been the same force away from Asia and the Caribbean - proved spectacularly unfounded. Giant question marks were hung around India's batting; after all, Jaiswal, Sai Sudharsan, Karun Nair, Washington Sundar, Abhimanyu Easwaran and Dhruv Jurel hadn't played a Test on English soil, Gill himself had played just three and didn't have the greatest record outside Asia. But England's predilection towards Bazball necessitated flat tracks which allowed India's young batters to find their feet right from the first innings of the first Test at Headingley. While it will be facile to pronounce that they didn't miss Kohli and/or Rohit, even they will acknowledge that their task was made easier by the surfaces that encouraged them to get into the series at the first time of asking.

In a series of many positives, India has some problem areas that can't be wished away. Such as Bumrah's fragile back and the obvious need to manage him. How his now-on, now-off avatar affects the team, the composition and mindset of the bowling group. And, as importantly, how to string together a bunch of fast bowlers like Kohli and Ravi Shastri did some seven years or so back, which allowed India to compete on an equal footing once they travelled outside the subcontinent.

Clearly, Akash Deep was out of his physical fitness depth despite his ten-wicket match haul in Birmingham. By the end of the Oval Test, he had nothing left to give, which was disappointing because he had missed the previous game with a groin/hip niggle and therefore didn't have a great deal of workload coming into the decider. He did weigh in with a crucial 66 in the second innings as the nightwatcher, which was commendable, but his primary task is looking for, and taking, wickets. His lack of fitness percolated to his fielding too. Whether India can afford to carry more than one bowler at less than peak physical conditioning can't be a topic up for debate. There can be no negotiations on that front; an exception can be made for Bumrah because, well, he is Bumrah, but there can only be one Bumrah, right?

Comparisons are being drawn with the Ashes of two years back here in England, which also ended 2-2. The hosts came to the final Test at The Oval needing a victory to square the series; this time, the shoe was on the other foot, and India did an England, with their narrowest margin of victory by runs in Test history. Seal this series in your mind, and play it on loop. Because you will be hard pressed for an encore.

THE GIST

- With a little more awareness and a little more luck, India could easily have wrapped their hands around the inaugural Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy. They won more sessions than their seasoned opponents, but the sessions lost came back to haunt them
- Fears that India would be blown away in the absence of their two immediate past captains – not so much Ashwin, because he hasn't been the same force away from Asia and the Caribbean – proved spectacularly unfounded
- In a series of many positives, India has some problem areas that can't be wished away such as Bumrah's fragile back and the obvious need to manage him

No change in RTC strike plan despite HC direction: JAC

A final round of talks was held between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy, and representatives of the employees' union, but the discussions ended without a resolution

Trying for a solution: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah meeting the Joint Action Committee of the transport corporation employees in Bengaluru on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Despite High Court directions, the Joint Action Committee (JAC) of transport corporation employees has announced that the Statewide strike will begin from 6 a.m. on Tuesday.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Anantha Subba Rao, president of the KSRTC Staff and Workers' Federation, confirmed on Monday evening that the strike will proceed as planned. "The meeting with the Chief Minister failed on Monday afternoon. We were served a copy of the court order at 7.30 p.m., but the government has not addressed the pressing issues faced by corporation employees. Therefore, we are going ahead with the strike," he said.

Mr. Rao also clarified that since other JAC members were unavailable on Monday evening, no formal meeting was held to discuss the court's directive. "We haven't convened a meeting with all other JAC members on the court's direction yet," he added.

Meanwhile, managing directors of both KSRTC and BMTC issued an appeal to their employees, asking them to comply with the court directions.

"As the High Court has issued an injunction against the strike called by labour unions tomorrow, we must honour the order. Since the Chief Minister has responded positively, employees of the transport corporation, which is a public utility service, are requested not to participate in tomorrow's strike," the note stated.

Talks with CM fail

A final round of talks was held on Monday between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy, and representatives of the employees' union, but the discussions ended without a resolution.

Mr. Siddaramaiah urged the unions to call off their planned protest.

"Several meetings have already been conducted with various transport unions. These issues can be resolved through mutual dialogue. During my previous tenure in 2016, the government had implemented a 12.5% salary hike for transport employees. But the former BJP government failed to revise salaries in 2020, citing the pandemic," Mr. Siddaramaiah stated in a release.

"When we came to power in 2013, the combined debt of all transport corporations stood at ₹4,000 crore. By 2018, when we left office, it reduced to just ₹14 crore. At present, none of the corporations are running in profit. The government will not act unfairly towards anyone. Cooperation from all corporations is essential," the Chief Minister added.

Kolkata-bound flight develops snag and returns to Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A Kolkata-bound Air India Express flight from Bengaluru on Sunday returned to the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) a few minutes after take-off owing to a technical snag it developed mid-air.

"One of our flights from Bengaluru returned to the airport following a technical issue. The aircraft circled to reduce fuel and weight before executing a safe, precautionary landing," Air India Express said.

Alternative plane

The airline further added that following the precautionary landing at KIA, an alternative plane was arranged for the passengers

"While the snag is investigated, an alternative aircraft was arranged to ensure the onward journey of our guests. We regret the inconvenience and reaffirm our unwavering commitment to safety in all aspects of our operations," an Air India Express spokesperson said.

Modi likely to take ride on metro, launch Vande Bharat to Belagavi

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

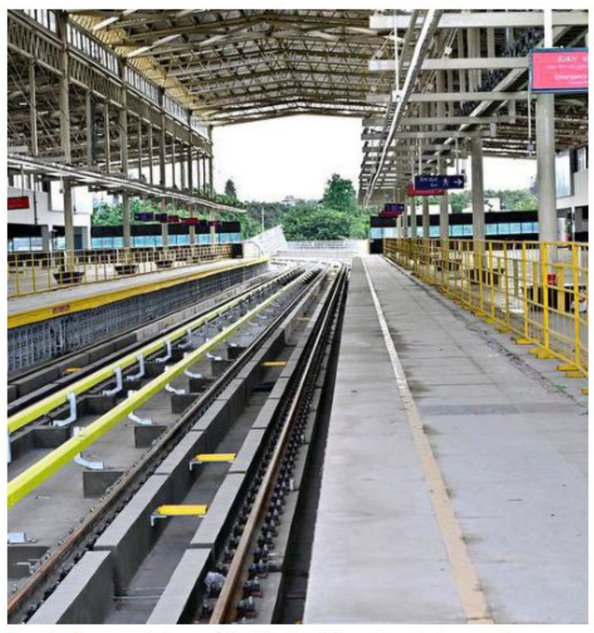
Along with launching Yellow Line, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to take a ride on the metro and also flag off the extended Vande Bharat Express to Belagavi on August 10, in what is shaping up to be a major public event.

The Karnataka unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is leaving no stone unturned to turn the twin inaugurations into a high-profile occasion, with preparations being led by Tejasvi Surya, Bengaluru South MP.

The announcement by Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal Khattar on Sunday confirming the Yellow Line's inauguration by the Prime Minister has propelled the BJP's event machinery into full gear.

Meetings were held on Sunday, including a key preparatory gathering in the evening at Jayanagar, where State BJP president B.Y. Vijayendra, Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok, and Mr. Surya discussed logistics.

According to BJP sources, Mr. Modi is expected to first arrive at the Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna (KSR) station to inaugurate the new Vande Bharat Express connecting Bengaluru and Belagavi. Following this, he may take a ride on the metro from Ragigudda station to Electronics City, one of the city's major tech corridors or vice-versa.



Ready for use: A view of the Ragigudda metro station on the Yellow Line. K. MURALI KUMAR

"The visit is expected to conclude with a public address at Shalini grounds, though the Prime Minister's Office is yet to confirm the exact sequence of events," sources added.

The State BJP also conducted a groundbreaking ceremony at Chandragupta Maurya ground on Monday for the event preparation.

Vande Bharat

Meanwhile, a senior official from South Western Railway (SWR) said the Prime Minister's Office is expected to formally confirm the Vande Bharat inauguration by Tuesday morning. The new train will be an extension of the existing Bengaluru-Hubballi-Dharwad service and will begin its journey from Belagavi in the morning, reaching Bengaluru and returning later.

The extension fulfills a long-standing demand from residents of Kittur Karnataka region, improving rail connectivity with the State capital. A formal proposal was approved by the Railway Ministry after a high-level delegation led by Union Minister Pralhad Joshi, including BJP leaders Jagadish Shettar and Iranna Kadadi, met Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw in March 2025 to press for the route's expansion.

Officials describe the move as a key step toward enhancing train connectivity between the two cities. "The extension to Belagavi will not only reduce travel time but also improve comfort and connectivity across major districts in Karnataka. It is expected to greatly benefit professionals, students, and business travellers," a Railway official said.

Commuters frustrated as Yellow Line set to open without adequate trains

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to inaugurate the long-delayed Yellow Line of Namma Metro on August 10, commuters say the launch appears symbolic, with limited benefits for daily travellers owing to inadequate trains.

The 19.15-km stretch, connecting R.V. Road and Bommasandra in South Bengaluru, will see trains running only every 25 minutes initially, a gap that many say will make the service nearly unusable during peak hours.

'A nightmare'

"I was hopeful that once the Yellow Line opened, I could stop depending on my bike to commute to Electronics City. But with trains every 25 minutes and the expected crowd, this is going to be a nightmare," said Murlidhar K.M., a resident of BTM Layout.

Kavya Kumari, who lives near Bommanahalli, said: "This looks like another case of ribbon-cutting culture. If the full-fledged service won't start until next year, what is the use? Public transport should prioritise public need, not political events."

On Sunday, Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs Manohar Lal Khattar announced the opening on X (formerly Twitter), stating that the ₹5,056.99-crore project, with 16 stations, is ready for launch. The line is seen as a critical link for tech workers and residents along Hosur Road, BTM Layout, Silk Board, and Electronics City.

Shortage of trains

However, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) officials admitted that the line will not operate at full capacity immediately owing to a shortage of trains. Only three train sets have arrived so far, and a fourth is expected to arrive in Bengaluru by August 12.

"Ridership is expected to be low in the initial days. We hope to gradually increase the frequency and availability of trains. Once full-fledged operations begin, likely only by next year with 15 trains, we anticipate a ridership of at least 2 lakh passengers daily. The fourth train, once it arrives at the depot, will also have to undergo several tests. After around 15 days, we expect to induct it into service. In the following months, more trains will be added to the Yellow Line, and the current 25-minute gap between trains will be reduced," a BMRCL official said.

KIA unveils its sonic identity 'Rhythm of BLR'

A file photo of Kempegowda International Airport.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) has unveiled its signature sonic identity – 'Rhythm of BLR'.

Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), operator of the airport, said that this unique musical expression has been developed in collaboration with sonic branding experts BrandMusiq.

"This unique musical expression is a central part of the Feels Like BLR campaign envisioned to transform the airport from a transit point into a space that truly connects with people. Music has the power to create deep emotional connections and instant recognition. Rhythm of BLR is designed to evoke a sense of warmth, familiarity, and emotional resonance – capturing the joy of new beginnings, the comfort of homecomings, and the spirit of Bengaluru itself," BIAL said.

It also said that the 'BLR Airport Anthem' has been composed by Grammy Award-winning artist Ricky Kej.

"Drawing from Carnatic sounds like the mandolin and mridangam, and harmonised with Western acoustic and electric guitars, piano, and a vibrant sing-along chorus, the identity becomes a rich *jugalbandi* of heritage and modernity," it said.

BIAL managing director and CEO Hari Marar said: "Every journey begins and ends with emotions. At KIA, we've always believed that travel should connect not just places, but people, feelings, and memories. Rhythm of BLR is an extension of that belief."

THE HINDU IN SCHOOL PRESENTS SCHOOL BUZZ
A Newspaper exclusively curated for School Students

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS

Bunts' Sangha, RNS Vidyaniketan, Vijayanagar, celebrates the outstanding achievements of their students at the inter-school yoga competitions organised by School of India, Bannerghatta. Hitesh G (Grade 7, CBSE) won 1st place in both Traditional Yoga demonstration and Artistic solo, while Shriya Rao (Grade 8) secured 3rd place in both events.

INVESTITURE CEREMONY

Ryan International School, Kundalahalli, held their solemn Investiture Ceremony with great pride and enthusiasm, officially appointing the new student council. Esteemed guests Major Aditi Mohan, Col Ramanand Kamath (Retired Colonel, Indian Air Force), and Shri Yogesh Prakash Singh (Senior Commandant, CISF) inspired students to lead with responsibility, integrity, and dedication. The ceremony was presided over by Principal Mrs. Vidya Guruprasad and IGCSE Principal Mrs. Shwetha, whose guidance shapes future leaders. The highlight was the pinning of badges and oath-taking, symbolising commitment and service. Congratulations to the newly appointed student leaders, who are encouraged to lead with honour and humility.

INVESTITURE CEREMONY

VVIS held their Investiture Ceremony with great enthusiasm, beginning with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp. The event was graced by Chairman Shree Katta Balaji and all heads of the institution. Newly elected leaders took charge of their respective houses and presented a guard of honour, led by the school captains marching to the school band. In his address, the Chairman motivated students to fulfil their duties with humility and sincerity. The ceremony concluded with cultural performances, followed by the National Anthem, celebrating leadership and collective school spirit.

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PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, Khurram Pasha Ameer Jan S/O, Ameer Jan R/o No 34075 1st Cross Shanthi Nagar Kolar Karnataka 563101 have changed my name to Khurram Pasha.

I, ZAKIR Abbas, S/o Ali Nawaz, R/at 11, Zainabiya School Road, Alipur Gowribidanur Tq, Allipura, Chikkaballapur-561213, Karnataka have changed my name from Zakir Ali Khan to Zakir Abbas vide affidavit dated 04-08-2025 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani, B'luru

CHANGE OF NAME

I, DEEPA GANGADHARAN, D/o Gangadharan, age 45 years, R/at No. 17/1, 1st Main, 5th Cross, Bharathi Layout, S G Palya, near Christ School, Bengaluru-560 029 do hereby declare that both the names of my minor daughter i.e. ZAARA HANEEF and ZAARA HANEEF DEEPA are one and the same and refers to my daughter only, now I have changed her name to ZAARA HANEEF DEEPA, vide affidavit dated 22-07-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary K.V. BACHI REDDY at Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, VENKATARATHNAMMA W/o Manjunath (old Name) aged 44 years. Resident of No.28, Leggre main Road, Leggere, Peenya Small Industries-Post, Bangalore-North, Bangalore District, Karnataka-State Pin code : 560058 have changed my name to VENKATRATHNAMMA Alias RATHNA, W/o. Manjunath (New Name) vide Affidavit Dated 03.09.2013 before Notary C.Srinivasa, Bangalore.

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, GRACY m/o service no–17008144W, Rank–sep, Name–Rajeesh ks, residing at kavilpurayidathil house, kunnappally po, perinthalmanna, malappuram dist, Kerala. Pin–679322.i have changed my name from Gracy to Gracy Sebastian vide affidavit dated 25/06/2025 before notary AR Muneer Ahmed Bangalore.

TENDERS

KERALA UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES
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Last Date:13.08.2025 at 03:00 PM.
Tender ID: 2025_KUHS_780038_1.
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or call 0487-220 7717, 7740.
Thrissur Registrar

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COUR T OF THE MO TOR ACCIDENT CLAIMS TRIB UNAL (PRINCIP AL DISTRICT JUDGE) AT J ANGAON TELANGAN A ST ATE M.V.O.P.No 684/2019

Between:-
Sankineni @Sarikeneni Somallu
Petitioner
AND
Bobender Singh & Others
... Respondents
To,
Respondent No.3. The New India Insurance Co. Ltd., Branch Office Hubli, Aralikatti, Karnataka State.
Whereas Sankineni @ Sarikeneni Somallu has instituted a Petition under M V Act 1988 against You and You no.3 i.e.The New India Insurance Co. Ltd are hereby summoned to appear in this Court in person on the 12th day of August 2025, to answer the claim, and you are directed to produce on that day all the documents upon which you intend to rely in support of your defence.
Take notice that, in default of your appearance on the day before mentioned, the Above M.V.O.P will be heard and determined in your absence.
As Per the Order of the Hon'ble Court
SREERAM SREENIVAS M.A.BL.., ADVOCATE, B.L H.No.1-2-348/1, SIDDIPET ROAD JANGAON Town, Jangaon Dist, Telangana State
Jangaon 03-08-2025 CELL: 9849495645, 7836559544

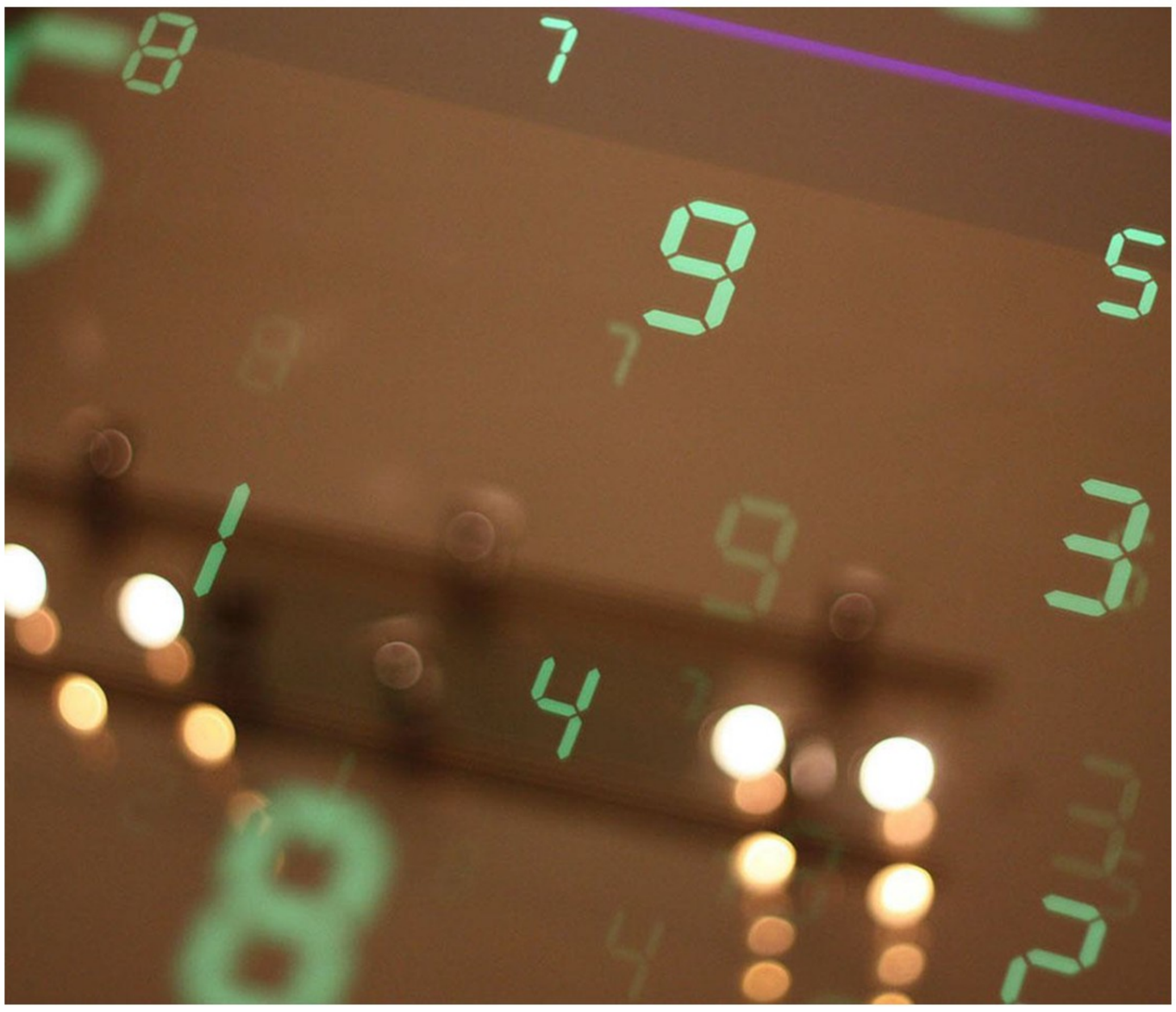
LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF PRINCIPAL JUDGE, FAMILY COURT No. 2, KAMRUP (M) AT GUWAHATI
NOTICE
FCK No.- 448/25
Dated: 23/07/25
F.C. (Civil) Case No. 1071/2024
Smti. Bhaswati Barman
.....Petitioner
-Versus-
SRI VICKY BAHADUR PARIYAR
..... Opposite Party
To,
SRI VICKY BAHADUR PARIYAR, (24)years, S/o- Late Chak Bahadur Pariyar, R/o G.S. Palya Near Kavalamma Temple 6 Electrict City, Govinda Shetty Palya, Bangaluru, Karnataka- 560100. Ph. No.- 7204675718
Permanent Address:
R/o- Barmata, P.O. Naharbari, P.S. Jamuguri, Dist.- Sonitpur, Assam, Pin-781020
Whereas the above named petitioner has filed an application U/S 27 (1) (b) of the Special Marriage Act 1954 against you praying for dissolution of marriage by passing a decree of divorce.
You are hereby asked to appear before this court on 07/8/25 at 10 AM and asked to show cause as to why a decree of divorce should not be granted to the petitioner as prayed for failing which the matter will be heard experte against you in accordance with law.
Given under my hand and seal of this court on this the 23rd day of July 2025 at Guwahati.
By order
O/o the Principal Judge
Family Court No- 2
Kamrup (M), Guwahati

A random number generator using quantum physics and a blockchain

While a new study isn't the first to describe how quantum phenomena can be used to generate random numbers, the technique also incorporates blockchains. As a result, the technique is fully traceable and certifiable by independent parties, making it the first of its kind

Sayantan Datta



True randomness has been elusive — but scientists have known for some time where they could best hope to find it: quantum mechanics, where randomness abounds. IVONA ROŽ/UNSPLASH

In September 2013, whistleblower Edward Snowden revealed that American and British intelligence agencies had successfully cracked much of the online encryption internet users used to keep their personal data private. Snowden's solution appeared ironic to many: to adopt end-to-end encryption *en masse*, rendering mass surveillance prohibitively expensive and cumbersome.

In end-to-end encryption, an algorithm converts readable data (plaintext) to an unreadable form (ciphertext) using a string of numbers and letters called a key. A user with the key can feed it into a decryption algorithm, which will use it to turn ciphertext to plaintext. The success of any encryption method thus hinges on the secrecy of the key.

To prevent an unauthorised person from guessing the key, it has to be sufficiently random, i.e., lacking predictable patterns.

How does one get a sufficiently random key? For cybersecurity company Cloudflare, the answer lay in a funky 1963 invention: the lava lamp.

A lava lamp comprises a glass container with blobs of wax suspended in water and placed over an incandescent bulb. The heat from the bulb melts the wax and causes droplets to rise up. As the droplets reach the top of the container, they cool down and fall back to the bottom, starting the cycle once again. The rising droplets in a lava lamp don't take the same shape twice. That is, the shapes are "consistently random."

At Cloudflare's headquarters in San Francisco in the US, the company has arranged a hundred lava lamps on one of its walls. A camera takes pictures of the wall periodically, and computers convert each pixel in the image into a numerical value. Thus, each picture generates a string of numbers (called the seed) that is then input to an algorithm to generate an encryption key.

There are two problems, however. One, even the "consistently random" movements of the lava lamp are determined in theory by the laws of thermodynamics, the branch of physics that deals with how heat moves in a system (e.g., the glass container with water and wax) and how that affects the properties of matter it contains. At least on paper, this makes the seed predictable.

Second, even if the seed is practically random, the algorithm used to generate the key is deterministic, i.e., not random. In other words, if a person gets hold of the seed, they can generate the exact same key using the algorithm. This is why such algorithms, which are commonplace in most encryption systems today, are called pseudorandom number generators.

True randomness has been elusive – but scientists have known for some time where they could best hope to find it: quantum mechanics, where randomness abounds.

Quantum randomness

Quantum mechanics is the study of how matter and light behave in the atomic and subatomic realms. At those scales, the theories of physics are no longer able to make predictions with certainty. As Gautam A. Kavuri, a quantum communication researcher at the University of Colorado, Boulder (CUB) in the US, put it, the "outcome of a measurement [in the quantum realm] cannot be known before a measurement is made."

Consider the case of a photon, the particle of light. Each photon has an oscillating electromagnetic field. The direction in which the field oscillates is called the photon's polarisation. According to the laws of quantum mechanics, the polarisation of a photon can be both horizontal and vertical (or left and right) until it is measured – just like a coin tossed in the air is both 'heads' and 'tails' until it lands. It is only at the time of measurement that the polarisation becomes one of the two, and this choice is random.

In a paper published in *Nature* in June, Kavuri along with a team of researchers from the CUB and the National Institute of Standards and Technologies (NIST) in the same city have reported using this as a source to generate truly random numbers.

Once generated, the team broadcasts the numbers publicly via the CU Randomness Beacon (CURBy): this is a public service where receivers can pick up the numbers and use them in their applications.

While Kavuri *et al*. isn't the first team to press quantum phenomena in the service of generating random numbers, the technique incorporates a cryptographic tool called blockchains in their protocol. This makes the technique fully traceable and certifiable by independent parties – making it the first of its kind.

Calling the work "innovative," quantum information theory researcher and University of New Orleans associate professor Peter Bierhorst said "every step in the process, from harvesting the raw data (which is only somewhat random) to processing it down to a near-perfect (uniform) string of random bits, can be audited and verified."

Bierhorst has worked in the past with some of the authors of the 2025 *Nature* paper but wasn't associated with the new study.

Numbers from photons

The protocol in the test by Kavuri et al. begins at the NIST, where a process called spontaneous parametric down-conversion is used to generate a pair of quantum entangled photons.

The process uses a special material called a non-linear crystal to convert a photon with higher energy to a pair of photons of lower energy. These photons are entangled, meaning that even at great distances, their properties are correlated.

Once the entangled photons are generated, they are sent in two different directions to two laboratories at opposite ends of a hall at NIST. There, the polarisation of these photons is measured. This process is repeated 15 million times in about one minute, and the polarisation state in each case is truly random. This data is passed to the CUB, where the next step unfolds.

Almost 2 km away, at the CUB, a computer programme converts the data to a bit string, a series of zeroes and ones. At this stage, the string, while truly random, is also biased: the frequency with which zeroes and ones occur is not equal. This random-but-biased bit string is then processed through a mathematical function called a randomness extractor. This function uses an independent random seed, obtained from a different random number generator called DRAND and extracts from the biased bit string a uniformly unbiased random string of 512 bits.

> It is not possible to change the fingerprint at one step without changing the fingerprints of all the subsequent steps
>
> **SANJIT CHATTERJEE**
> INFORMATION SECURITY RESEARCHER AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AT THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE, BENGALURU

DRAND is run by a confederation of many independent parties around the world, including Cloudflare, Ethereum Foundation, and the Swiss Federal Technology Institute of Lausanne in Switzerland.

Building trust

Impressive as the protocol is, its novelty lies elsewhere.

For random number generators that are used to encrypt and decrypt data, trust has always been an issue. Sanjit Chatterjee, an information security researcher and associate professor at the Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru, explained: "Suppose I claim I have a random number generator. How do you verify or get a certificate stating that its output is truly random? Or that the protocol has not been tampered with?"

To surmount this issue, the team led by Kavuri integrated a blockchain in their protocol. In blockchain technologies, data from different steps of a process is stored in blocks that are linked to each other using the output of a mathematical algorithm called a hash.

The hash algorithm converts a long string of data to a string of fixed length called the fingerprint. The fingerprint is uniquely linked to the input data; any tampering with the input data leads to a substantially different fingerprint, which a verifying party can easily check and call out.

According to Chatterjee, "It is not possible to change the fingerprint at one step without changing the fingerprints of all the subsequent steps."

Thus, by linking different blocks of data using different fingerprints, researchers are able to ensure that any tampering in one step of the process will be reflected in the fingerprints of all the subsequent processes.

Kavuri and colleagues developed a blockchain protocol they called 'twine' to "create a traceable ... cryptographic contract between three parties" responsible for a part of the random number generation process, they wrote in their paper.

The first party, NIST, provided the raw bit string. The second party, CUB, ran the randomness extractor. The third party, DRAND, provided the independent seed to the extractor.

Each step of the process was marked with a hash fingerprint, and the fingerprints could be used by one of the three parties or any user to verify the integrity of the process.

"As long as all the parties are not compromised, we can be sure that the analysis and extraction is carried out correctly," Kavuri said.

'Challenging proposition'

According to Chatterjee, the researchers have provided a "prototype" that shows generating traceable random numbers "is possible in practice".

"But if you think about the amount of random numbers generated in everyday operations, then this is nowhere near that stage," he added.

Kavuri *et al*. stated in their paper that they could generate 7,434 random numbers over a 40-day period.

Bierhorst, the University of New Orleans quantum information theorist, added that the protocol requires "an intricate apparatus employing state-of-the-art optical components to create and manipulate the entangled photons" – which would be the starting step for the protocol.

"Deploying this commercially is a challenging proposition," he said. He added that he expects it will take another few years before the protocol can be deployed widely.

Kavuri, meanwhile, said he was looking forward to bringing more parties under the ambit of their twine protocol. "This will further decentralise trust in the random number generation process," he said.

(Sayantan Datta is a faculty member at Krea University and an independent science journalist. The author thanks Apoorva Patel and Shayan Srinivasa Garani for inputs. dattasayantan95@gmail.com)

A shelf of lava lamps. DEAN HOCHMAN (CC BY)

An oil palm plantation in Ijok, Malaysia. REUTERS

Old trees, ageing farmers worsen outlook for palm oil exporters

Reuters

Malaysian farmer Suratmen Mosman faces a dilemma that threatens to sap supply from the world's top palm oil exporters and drive up prices of the vegetable oil essential to billions of consumers worldwide in the next five years.

The ageing trees on his plantation 300 km south of Kuala Lumpur are bearing less fruit, but the 85-year-old is holding off replacing them as he doesn't want to lose income while waiting the three to five years it takes for new trees to start yielding a crop. Government subsidies to encourage replanting are not as high as they once were and he needs to support his family.

Used mostly as cooking oil, but also to make cakes, cosmetics, and cleaning products, palm oil makes up more than half of the world's vegetable oil supply and 85% of the crude product comes from Malaysia and Indonesia.

But after decades of soaring output, the market is now at a tipping point as combined exports from the two producers are set to slow sharply, the result of stagnating production and efforts by Indonesia to divert more palm oil into the production of biodiesel.

While financial markets have factored in the slowdown, there is growing evidence that plantations run by smallholders like Suratmen may be in worse condition than previously thought as ageing and lower-yielding trees are not replaced, which will add to the decline. Smallholders make up 40% of the plantations across Malaysia and Indonesia, so they play a vital role in the supply chain.

Supplies to global markets from Indonesia and Malaysia could fall as much as 20% over the next five years, according to calculations based on government and industry projections, some previously unpublished.

Small plantations may be in worse condition than previously thought, as owners fail to replace ageing trees. Smallholders make up 40% of the plantations across Malaysia and Indonesia

Future output from smallholders may well be over-estimated because the condition of trees and the rate of planting new trees is worse than estimates by the governments in Kuala Lumpur and Jakarta, according to veteran industry figures Dorab Mistry and M.R. Chandran.

Other previously unpublished data also shows the acreage of plantations where trees are older than 20 years, a point at which they are considered beyond their peak, is growing fast.

Exports from the world's top two producing countries are set to fall further on replanting delays, rising local demand because of higher biodiesel blending mandates

Mistry, a director of Indian consumer goods firm Godrej International and a long-term palm oil analyst who has been in the industry for more than 40 years, and Chandran, the former head of the Malaysian Palm Oil Association, estimated that more than half of the trees on Malaysian smallholder plantations are well past peak production.

The estimate is significantly higher than Malaysian government data, which shows 37% of smallholder plantations are past their peak yielding phase.

In Indonesia, just 10% of a 2016 government target to replant 2.5 million ha by 2025 had been met as of October 2024, publicly available government data showed.

Thus, calculations based on Malaysian and Indonesia palm oil body estimates suggest combined exports are likely to drop by 20% by 2030 over 2024 levels.

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Keynote Address by
Chief Guest

Thiru. Shiv Das Meena I.A.S., (Retd.)
Chairperson,
Tamil Nadu Real Estate
Regulatory Authority (TNRERA)

Session 1 - 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Fireside Chat:
Vision for Tamil Nadu's Real Estate Growth

Arun M N, Founder, Chairman and Managing Director, Casagrand

Moderated by **Rosella Stephen R**, Senior Associate Editor, The Hindu

Session 2 - 11:05 AM - 12:05 PM

Tamil Nadu @ $1 Trillion: Role of Real Estate in Urban Transformation

W S Habib, President, CREDAI Tamil Nadu
Jerry Kingsley, Head of Value & Risk Advisory in India & City Capital Markets, Chennai JLL
Julian Francis, Senior Vice President – Asset Management, Chennai, and Head of Industrial & Logistics (I&L) at RMZ
Sripriya Ganesan, Co-founder of Studio Neon Attic
C G Sathish, Deputy Managing Director, Casagrand

Moderated by **Kunal Shankar,** Deputy Business Editor, The Hindu

Session 3 - 12:10 PM - 12:30 PM

Fireside Chat:
Navigating the Future of Real Estate in Tamil Nadu

Bala Ramajayam, Managing Director, Gsquare Group

Moderated by **Sangeetha Kandavel,** Senior Assistant Editor, The Hindu

Session 4 - 12:35 PM - 13:35 PM

Policy to Prosperity: RERA, Ease of Doing Business & Regulatory Outlook

Sanjay Chugh, City Head & Director ANAROCK Property Consultants Pvt Ltd, Chennai
Sridharan Swaminathan, Chairman, Sabari & LYRA Properties Pvt ltd, Executive Committee Member, CREDAI National Delhi
Jayaprakash Padmanaban, Senior Partner, Fox Mandal & Associates

Moderated by **Kunal Shankar,** Deputy Business Editor, The Hindu

Session 5 - 14:20 PM - 15:20 PM

Affordable Housing: Bridging the Urban Housing Gap

A Srivathsan, Professor, Head of the Centre for Research on Architecture and Urbanism at CEPT University
Vanessa Peter, Founder, Information and Resource Centre for the Deprived Urban Communities (IRCDUC)
R V Shekar, Chairman, Managing Director Lancor Group
P Suresh, Managing Director, Arun Excello Group

Moderated by **R Sujatha,** Former Deputy editor, The Hindu

Session 6 - 15:25 PM - 16:40 PM

Green is Gold: Sustainable Construction & Energy-Efficient Buildings

Dr. C Velan, CEO, CEEBROS Group
Sumitra Vasudevan, Associate Partner, APRObuild
Ajit Kumar Chordia, Managing Director Olympia Group, India
Nataraj S, Senior Assistant Vice President, Swelect

Moderated by **Geetha Srimathi S,** Senior Reporter, The Hindu

Session 7 - 16:45 PM - 17:15 PM

Fireside Chat:
Building Champions, Building Cities: The Role of Sports Infrastructure in Tamil Nadu's Growth

J Meghanatha Reddy, IAS, Member Secretary & CEO, Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT)

Moderated by **K. C. Vijaya Kumar,** Sports Editor, The Hindu

Session 8 - 17:20 PM - 18:20 PM

Tier II & III Cities:
The Next Real Estate Frontier

V S Sridhar, Executive Managing Director at Cushman & Wakefield Chennai
A Shankar, India Head - Government Advisory & Solutions, JLL India
Junaith Babu, Chief Operating Officer, Gsquare Group
R Vignesh, Managing Director, Shri Kailash Industrial and Logistics Parks

Moderated by **Sangeetha Kandavel,** Senior Assistant Editor, The Hindu

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The funds the U.K is investing to prevent illegal immigration

100 in million pounds. This funding package will go towards supporting a new pilot of the "one-in, one-out" U.K. returns agreement, which will see migrants who arrive illegally on small boats returned to France. More than 25,000 migrants made boat crossings to enter U.K. illegally. PTI

Funds disbursed by Rajasthan under investment scheme

765.78 crore. This investment falls under the Rajasthan Investment Promotion Scheme (RIPS) for the 2024-25 fiscal year, a statement said. RIPS 2024 targets priority sectors such as renewable energy, tourism, IT, and women-led startups. PTI

Amount H.P. transferred to farmers after procuring wheat

1.27 in ₹ crore. The Himachal Pradesh government has purchased 2,123 quintals of naturally grown wheat this year to promote natural farming in the State, a spokesperson said. In addition, a freight subsidy of ₹4.15 lakh on the transportation of wheat has also been provided. PTI

Projected drop in India's exports to the U.S. in FY26

30 in per cent. The additional 25% import duty announced by U.S. President Donald Trump on Indian goods could lead to this decline, the Global Trade Research Initiative said. India now faces a 25% country-specific tariff and an extra penalty on its exports to the U.S. PTI

Number of fleeing civilians killed by Sudan paramilitary

14 These deaths occurred more than 27 months into Sudan's war. The Emergency Lawyers, which documents atrocities in the war between the Rapid Support Forces and the Sudanese army, said that "dozens more were injured". AFP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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IAF's unending fighter conundrum

Why have the MiG-21 fighter jets been called 'flying coffins'? Why has the induction of Mk-1A jets been delayed? How many jets does the Indian Air Force intend to induct in the next two decades? Are the engines for India's fifth generation fighter aircraft going to be indigenously developed?

EXPLAINER

Dinakar Peri

The story so far:

After over six decades in service, the MiG-21 fighter jets are set to be retired from the Indian Air Force (IAF) in September this year. The formal ceremony is scheduled to be held at Chandigarh where the jets were first inducted in 1963. With this the fighter strength of the IAF will dip from 31 to 29 squadrons, against the sanctioned strength of 42 squadrons. A fighter squadron typically has 16-18 jets. The IAF is awaiting deliveries of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)-Mk1A, which is expected to begin in the next few months after repeated delays. All this at a time when the Chinese Air Force and Navy have fielded around 1,900 fighters including more than 1,300 fourth-generation aircraft, not including trainers, as per a 2024 U.S. Department of Defence report. China has also deployed two Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft (FGFA), recently unveiled two more advanced jets, and is likely to supply 40 J-35s stealth jets to Pakistan.

What has been the legacy of MiG-21s?

Contracted from the erstwhile Soviet Union after the 1962 war with China, the MiG-21s heralded the onset of supersonic aviation in the IAF and was also its first non-western fighter. A total of 872 MiG-21 aircraft have been inducted in the IAF, a bulk of them licence-manufactured by the state-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). The MiG-21s remained the mainstay of the IAF for several decades and a spate of accidents in the early 2000s earned them the name 'flying coffins'. Over the six decades, there were over 450 accidents involving the jet.

The jets played a key role in the 1965, 1971 wars, the 1999 Kargil conflict, and more recently in the aerial dual with Pakistan on February 27, 2019, a day after the Balakot air strike. During the attack, Group Captain (then Wg Cdr) Abhinandan Varthaman's MiG-21 was shot down and fell in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir after he shot down a Pakistani F-16, according to the IAF.

In fact, in the absence of an Advanced Jet Trainer (AJT), before the Hawks were inducted in 2008, the MiG-21s were used for stage III training of young pilots for a long time as it was the "most suitable" fighter even though it was considered "sub-optimal" as a trainer.

The MiG-21 is also among the most successful fighter jets globally with over 6,000 jets of 12 types flown by over three dozen countries. Currently, there are two MiG-21 Bison squadrons in service – the No. 23 'Panthers' and the No. 3 'Cobras'. Incidentally, the No. 3 Squadron has the distinction of being the first to get the upgraded MiG-21 Bisons still in service and will now be the first to get the LCA-Mk1A. With the MiG-21s out, the MiG-29s are the last of the MiG series in service which together with the SU-30MKI remain the last of Russian-origin fighters.

What is the current status of the IAF?

Besides the MiG-21s, a majority of the current inventory, that is the early variants of the Jaguars, Mirage-2000s and Mig-29s, will start going out by the end of the decade. This leaves the SU-30MKI in service, the LCA variants planned to be inducted, and the Medium Role Fighter Aircraft (MRFA) while the indigenous FGFA, the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) is under development.

The IAF currently operates two squadrons of the LCA-Mk1, which undertook maiden flight in January 2001 and was inducted in 2016. A more capable variant, the Mk-1A, which is to be inducted in large numbers, had been delayed initially due to development issues and later due to non-delivery of engines by General Electric (GE) Aerospace citing supply chain difficulties.

Long legacy: Technicians preparing a MiG-21 fighter for a test flight at the Base Repair Depot at Ozhar, Maharashtra on July 24, 1982. HINDU PHOTO ARCHIVES

How did it get delayed?

The Defence Ministry had signed a ₹48,000 crore contract with HAL for 83 MK1A jets, and deliveries were to start in March 2024 with at least 16 planes to be delivered to the IAF every year. However, not a single Tejas Mark-1A has been delivered so far. In August 2021, the HAL placed an order for 99 F-404 engines with GE Aerospace at a cost of ₹5,375 crore for the 83 Mk1A jets. The first engine arrived in India only in April this year after a delay of one and half years and the second engine was delivered early this month. Additionally, a deal for 97 additional jets, estimated to ₹67,000 crore, is expected to be concluded in the next few months. HAL has assured to scale up production to 24 jets a year.

Amid these delays, an Empowered Committee for Capability Enhancement of the IAF headed by the Defence Secretary R. K. Singh identified key thrust areas and made recommendations for medium- and long-term measures in the report submitted to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in March.

As per the IAF, the LCA Mk2, larger and more capable than the Mk1 variants, is meant to replace the Mirage 2000, MiG-29 and Jaguars. It is expected to take first flight in 2026. In February 2025, IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal A. P. Singh said that they need to add 35-40 jets every year to make up for the shortage in numbers. Both these programmes, LCA-Mk1A and Mk2, are extremely critical to shore up fighter numbers of the IAF over the next 10-15 years. In an interview to *PTI* in June, HAL Chairman and Managing Director D. K. Sunil said that GE Aerospace is expected to supply 12 engines in the current fiscal and that the jets would be delivered to the IAF.

Moreover, India has procured 272 Su-30MKIs from Russia of which around 260 remain in service. Last December, the Ministry of Defence signed a ₹13,500 crore deal with HAL for 12 Sukhois to replace those lost in crashes. A major upgrade programme for the Sukhoi's has been lined up to be undertaken by HAL. The upgrade of 84 jets in the first batch has already been approved. Meanwhile, by early 2040s, some of the earlier batch of SU-30MKIs will go out.

What is the way forward?

The IAF has drawn up an ambitious plan to induct more than 600 jets over the next two decades, a large number of them being LCA variants. This includes 180 LCA-Mk1A, over 120 LCA-Mk2, 114 MRFA and at least 120 AMCA. A Twin-Engine Deck Based Fighter for the Navy's aircraft carriers is also on the drawing board. However, all this hinges on timely production and deliveries.

Mr. Singh said in an interview recently that they are talking to partners for the likely import of a small number of fifth gen fighters as an interim measure while the AMCA development continues. The option is between the Russian SU-57 and American F-35. These are sensitive negotiations, Mr. Singh said adding, "When it reaches a tangible stage, whether it is an Acceptance of Necessity (AoN), a Request For Proposal or ultimately through a contract that is when the media will come to know."

Ultimately, it is the fifth gen AMCA that is the way forward while the LCA variants and MRFA fill numbers and add strength in the medium term. The Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) that is developing the aircraft has floated an AoN inviting private sector participation for the production. Even HAL has to bid for it, unlike the nomination in the past. "I imagine it will take 3-6 months to reach the contract award stage", Mr. Singh said. "Thereafter the project itself of development and an AMCA prototype to actually take to the skies, it would be a 10-year program, I would imagine."

On the engine front, the F414 engine to power the LCA-Mk2 is to be licence manufactured by HAL for which commercial negotiations with GE are underway. The AMCA development is envisaged in two phases – MK1 development and couple of squadrons with the GE414 engine, and AMCA-Mk2 with a more powerful 110KN engine that is to be co-developed with a foreign partner for which talks are underway.

All this leaves the MRFA deal, for which the Request For Information was issued to global aircraft manufacturers in April 2019, but there has been no progress since. Given the huge cost involved, the long timelines and various other programmes already in the pipeline, it has to be seen how it can be taken forward.

Dinakar Peri is Fellow, Security Studies at Carnegie India.

India's fighter jet strength

IAF CURRENT SQUADRONS	
SU-30MKI	13
Jaguar	6
Mirage 2000	3
MIG-29UPG	3
Rafale	2
LCA	2
MIG-21	2
Total sqns	**31**

THE PLANNED LINE-UP	
LCA-MK1A	180 (83+97)
LCA-MK2	120<
MRFA	114
AMCA	120<

IAF LCA Tejas during the Aero India 2023 air show at Yelahanka air base in Bengaluru.

THE GIST

- Contracted from the erstwhile Soviet Union after the 1962 war with China, the MiG-21s heralded the onset of supersonic aviation in the IAF and was also its first non-western fighter.
- The IAF has drawn up an ambitious plan to induct more than 600 jets over the next two decades, a large number of them being LCA variants.
- The Defence Ministry had signed a ₹48,000 crore contract with HAL for 83 MK1A jets, and deliveries were to start in March 2024 with at least 16 planes to be delivered to the IAF every year. However, not a single Tejas Mark-1A has been delivered so far.

Lokayukta pulls up BBMP officials over dog-bite cases

B.S. Patil says they have not taken any effective action against the stray dog menace for a year, and errant officials will be dealt with under Section 13 of the Lokayukta Act

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Lokayukta B.S. Patil has taken serious note of the alleged negligence of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) officials that led to the death of 70-year-old Seethappa, who was mauled by a stray dog.

The BBMP officials have not taken any effective action against the stray dog menace for a year, and the errant officials will be dealt with under Section 13 of the Lokayukta Act, he said on Monday.

The decision was taken at a hearing in the presence of BBMP officials of the Animal Husbandry, Health and Family Welfare Departments, BBMP medical officials, and residents of Nethravathi Colony.

The Lokayukta has also found that the officials concerned have not paid compensation to the family of victims so far, and he directed the officials to pay compensation as per the Supreme Court and the High Court directions.

A file photo of stray dogs in Bengaluru. The Lokayukta has said BBMP should set up observation homes in every ward to monitor and treat aggressive dogs.

The Lokayukta had taken up a *suo moto* case and directed Vamshikrishna, Superintendent of Police, Lokayukta, to visit the spot and conduct a detailed enquiry, and file the report within four days.

In the report, the Lokayukta police mentioned negligence on the part of officials that led to the incident.

Taking cognisance of the report, the Lokayukta has pulled up officials for not setting up observation homes for aggressive dogs.

The BBMP's Special Commissioner (Health) promised the Lokayukta that an observation home would be completed in 15 days in Yelahanka with a capacity of housing 50 dogs.

However, the Lokayukta turned down his submission saying that it was not enough and the BBMP should set up observation homes in every ward to monitor and treat aggressive dogs.

Members of Nethravathi Colony Residents' Association alleged that there were four aggressive dogs that bit 42 people since this January.

Among them, 14 of the cases have been reported to the BBMP.

Association members said BBMP officials catch the stray dogs after every dog-bite incident, but return the animals to the same locality after a few days. When the Lokayukta asked the BBMP officials, the officials accepted that this happens sometimes.

Despite the HC and the SC orders for setting up shelters to treat and monitor aggressive dogs, the BBMP is not implementing the orders, Mr. Patil rued.

The association members submitted that since this January, 2.6 lakh dog-bite cases were reported in the State as per the Health Department information, and 13,831 people have died from rabies.

In the last week of this July, 10,212 cases were reported, out of which 8,878 were from Bengaluru city and 4,408 from Bengaluru Urban. The Lokayukta posted the next hearing to September 19, and directed the officials to submit the action taken report.

Student found dead

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 14-year-old student allegedly ended his life at his house at Banagiri Nagar in Banashankari on Monday.

The deceased has been identified as Gandhara, a class 7 student at a private school in Banashankari. His father and brother, who went to wake him up around 5.30 a.m., found him dead and alerted the police.

The police have taken up a case of unnatural death and are awaiting the post-mortem report.

(*Those having suicidal tendencies can call Arogya Sahayavani on Ph no. 104 for help*)

Techie held for running fake online legal aid service

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Central Crime Branch officials arrested a 37-year-old software engineer for allegedly cheating cybercrime victims by offering legal aid and escaping with the money on the pretext of service charges.

His arrest followed a complaint filed by one of the victims who had lost ₹1.5 crore in a cyber fraud in Ramamurthynagar. He was looking for help online, when the accused allegedly approached him posing as the representative of 'Quickmoto Legal Service' and made away with ₹12.5 lakh this February.

The police found that the company existed only on paper and did not have any office. However the CCB tracked down the accused operating from a different location under a different name 'India Legal Service' in Kasturinagar and arrested him.

The accused has been identified as Thufail Ahmed C.A.M., resident of Cuddalore in Tamil Nadu, with a BE in Electronics and Communication Engineering.

The accused had set up a tele-calling centre and employed 12 people in Kasturinagar to track down cybercrime victims.

The accused, with the help of his brother who was working in Dubai, set up many fake companies to carry out the racket, the police added.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No.: Y/E.29/2025-26/34
Dated: 29.07.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
(1) Ramgiri (RGI): Extension of PF No. 1 and PF No. 2 to 557.5 meters with High level Platform and other amenity works at Ramgiri. **(2) Ajjampura (AJP):** Extension of PF No. 1 and PF No. 2 to 557.5 meters with High level Platform and Provision of PF shelter at AJP and other amenity works.	Rs. 35,95,263/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 20.08.2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/General/
PUB/354/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Mysuru**
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

LOST DOCUMENT
My client Sri. M. Nagaraj, R/at. No.20, 2nd Street, Sivan Chetty Garden, Bangalore - 560 042, state that he had lost the original Allotment Letter issued by BDA, Bangalore, Dt. 19.10.1987 for the schedule property, while shifting the house. If the same is found it can be returned to the above mentioned address or to the nearest police station.
SCHEDULE OF THE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of site No.10 BM215, E-PID No.7619883289, in the layout formed by the BDA at 1st Block Extension, HRBR, Bangalore, BBMP ward No.27, measuring East to West 12.20 Mtrs. And North to South 9.15 Mtrs. totally measuring 111.63 Sq.Mtrs. and bounded on :
East by : 10 BM Road
West by : Site No.10 AM218
North by : Site No.10 BM217
South by: Site No.10 BM213
Usha. R., Advocates
No. 774, 1st Floor, Opp. Andhra Bank, T. Dasarahalli, Bangalore - 560057. Mob: 9535580008.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No.: CAO/CN/BNC/133/2025
Dated 29.07.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Item of work	Approx. Value
RFP for Construction of New Broad Gauge line including Electrical, Signal & Telecommunication works between Jumlapur Road (Excl) Ch: 75400 and Gurgunta (Incl) Ch: 134950 (59.55 km) under Gadag - Wadi New line Project on EPC Mode. **(Tender Ref. No. JUMLAPUR-GURGUNTA-EPC)**	Rs. 964,51,54,197

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 25.11.2025**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Dy. Chief Engineer/Construction/ Works/Bengaluru Cantt.
PUB/356/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26
Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

ಕೆನರಾ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ Canara Bank (A Government of India Undertaking)
Syndicate

HOMBEGOWDANAGAR BRANCH :No. 211/62, 11th Cross Wilson Garden, Hombegowdanagar, Bengaluru ,560027
Email: cb1371@canarabank.com

DEMAND NOTICE TO BORROWER / GUARANTOR / MORTGAGOR
Notice issued under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

To,
Borrower : 1)M/s. A. C. TRADERS, Proprietor Mr. HAMEED SAIT
NO 700 C P Colony 29 th main , 9 th block jayangara,bengaluru- 560078.
Also at : M/s. A.C. TRADERS
NO.597/626,kl layout, ck palya, dinne palya circle, bg road, bengaluru-560076
2)Mr.HAMEED SAIT (Proprietor of M/S. A C Traders) S/O BABU SAIT
no 700 c p colony, 29 th main 9 th block, jayanagara,bengaluru- 560078
3) Smt.TAHERA Alias Smt.THAIRA BI Alias Smt. Tahira Bi Alias Thahira Bi Alias Thahera (Guarantor and Mortgagor) D/O SYED PEER
E 8 3rd cross,bismillanagar jayanagar, bengaluru-560029
Also residing at : W/O BABU SAIT
No.700,28th B Main Road,9th Block,Jayanagar,Corporation Colony 1st Phase,Marenahalli Tank Bund Area,Bengaluru-560030
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Canara Bank, Hombegowdanagar Branch (1371) (hereinafter referred to as "the secured creditor"), appointed under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assetsand Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, (hereinafter referred as the "Act") do hereby issue this notice to you as under:

That M/s **AC TRADERS (hereinafter referred to as "the Borrower"1)** represented by **Proprietor Mr.HAMEED SAIT** has availed credit facility / facilities stated in the Schedule A hereunder and has entered into the security agreement/s in favour of the secured creditor. While availing the said financial assistance, you have expressly undertaken to repay the loan amount/s in accordance with the terms and conditions of the above mentioned agreements.
That **Mrs.TAHERA** (hereinafter referred to as the Guarantor") has guaranteed the payment on demand of all moneys and discharge all obligations and liabilities owing or incurred to the secured creditor by the Borrower for credit facilities up to the limit of Rs. **2,44,90,000.00 (Rupees Two Crore Forty Four Lakhs Ninty Thousand only),** with interest thereon.
You have committed default in repayment of loans as mentioned below and the loans were classified as Non Performing Assets on **18.07.2025** The Bank through this notice brings to your attention that you have failed and neglected to repay the said dues/ outstanding liabilities and hence hereby demand you under Section 13(2) of the Act, by issuing this notice to discharge in full the liabilities of the Borrower as stated in hereunder to the Bank **within 60 days from the date of receipt of this notice.** The notice under Sec.13(2) of the Act sent to you by Post. Ack. on **19.07.2025** was not acknowledged by you.
Further, it is brought to your notice that you are also liable to pay future interest at the rate together with all costs, charges, expenses and incidental expenses with respect to the proceedings undertaken by the bank in recovering its dues.
Please take note of the fact that if you fail to repay to the Bank the aforesaid sum of **Rs. 2,24,35,960.57 (Rupees Two Crores Twenty Four Lakhs Thirty Five Thousand Nine Hundred And Sixty And Fifty seven Paise only)** together with further interest and incidental expenses and costs as stated above in terms of this notice under Section 13(2) of the Act, The Bank will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub-section (4)(a) and (b) of Section 13. You are hereby restrained from dealing with any of the secured assets detailed below in terms of Section 13(13).
Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

SCHEDULE - A

SL NO	Loan No	Nature of Loan/ Limit	Date of Sanction	Amount
1.	1371285000004	MSME OD/OCC	30.04.2019	Rs.195.00Lac
2.	170002211919	GECL-1.0	19.11.2021	RS. 49.90 Lac

schedule - B

Details of Security Assets : All that piece and parcel of property bearing Site No.700,BBMP Municipal New No.700, BBMP PID No.64-144-700. Situated at 28th B Main Road,9th Block, Jayanagar Corporation Colony, 1st Phase, Marenahalli Tank Bund Area, Bengaluru, Old corporation Division No.60,BBMP ward No.64,New ward No.170,Bengaluru ,measuring East to West 40 feet ,North to South 25feet with building on it and bounded on **:East By :** Property No.677, **West by :** Road, **North by :** Property No.701 And **South by :** Property No.699.
Name Of Title Holder: Smt.Tahira Bi

schedule - C

SL NO	Loan No	Nature of Loan/ Limit	Liability with interest	RATE OF INTEREST (Inclusive of penal interest)
1.	1371285000004	MSME OD/OCC	Rs. 1,97,32,886.00	11.60%
2.	170002211919	GECL-1.0	Rs. 27,03,074.57	10.85%

Place : Bangalore
Date : 04.08.2025
Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

ಕೆನರಾ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ Canara Bank (A Government of India Undertaking)
Syndicate

Canara Bank ARM Branch– II,
2nd Floor, Circle Office, Spencer Towers, No.86,
M G Road, Bengaluru - 560001. Telephone numbers :
080-25310099, 080-25310181. Email: cb6298@canarabank.com

DEMAND NOTICE TO BORROWER / GUARANTOR / MORTGAGOR
Notice issued under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

To,
Borrower : 1) SRI. PRAVEEN M S/O SRI. MAHADEVAPPA
RESIDING AT NO. 4, FRIENDS COLONY, 3RD CROSS BHCS LAYOUT, 1ST MAIN ROAD, SUBRAMANYAPURA POST , UTTARAHALLI BENGALURU-560061.
2) SMT. SOWMYA M W/O SRI. PRAVEEN M
RESIDING AT NO. 4, FRIENDS COLONY, 3RD CROSS BHCS LAYOUT, 1ST MAIN ROAD, SUBRAMANYAPURA POST , UTTARAHALLI BENGALURU-560061
3) M/S SRI KRISHNA EXCEL STONE BUILDERS & DEVELOPERS (builder)
A PARTNERSHIP FIRM HAVING ITS REGISTERED OFFICE AT NO. 128 , GREEN GARDEN LAYOUT,MUNNEKOLALA,BENGALURU-560037. REPRESENTED BY ITS MANAGING PARTNER,SRI N. KANNAIAH NAIDU & PARTNER SMT. ROHINI NAIDU.
4)SRI. N.KANNAIAH NAIDU (MANAGING PARTNER) S/O SRI. NARASIMHALU NAIDU
RESIDING AT NO. 15,6TH CROSS, MASJID ROAD,NEAR MANIPAL HOSPITAL,HAL 3RD STAGE,KODIHALLI,BENGALURU -560008.
5) SMT. ROHINI NAIDU (PARTNER) SRI. N.KANNAIAH NAIDU
RESIDING AT NO. 15,6TH CROSS, MASJID ROAD,NEAR MANIPAL HOSPITAL,HAL 3RD STAGE,KODIHALLI,BENGALURU -560008.
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of Canara Bank ARM II branch (hereinafter referred to as "the secured creditor"), appointed under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, (hereinafter referred as the "Act") do hereby issue this notice to you as under:

That **MR. PRAVEEN M** and **SMT. SOWMYA M** (hereinafter referred to as "the Borrower") has availed credit facility / facilities stated in the Schedule A hereunder and have entered into the security agreement/s in favour of the secured creditor. While availing the said financial assistance, you have expressly undertaken to repay the loan amount/s in accordance with the terms and conditions of the above-mentioned agreements.
You **MR. PRAVEEN M** and **M/S SRI KRISHNA EXCEL STONE BUILDERS & DEVELOPERS** has also entered in to tripartite agreement dated **14.03.2018** against the secured assets which are detailed in Schedule B hereunder.
However, from **30.09.2019** the operation and conduct of the said financial assistance / credit facilities have become irregular. The books of account maintained by the secured assets shows that the liability of the Borrower towards the secured creditor as on **30.07.2025** amounts to **Rs. 1,01,45,400.42 (Rupees One Crore One Lakh Forty Five Thousand Four Hundred and Paise Forty Two Only)** plus further Interest and charges thereon, the details of which together with future interest rate are stated in Schedule C hereunder. It is further stated that the Borrower/Guarantor having failed to keep up with the terms of the above said agreement in clearing the dues of the secured creditor within the time given, and have been evasive in settling the dues. The operation and conduct of the above said financial assistance / credit facility/ies having come to a standstill and as a consequence of the default committed in repayment of principal debt/ instalment and interest thereon, the secured creditor was constrained to classify the debt as Non-Performing Asset (NPA) as on **30.12.2019** in accordance with the directives/guidelines relating to asset classification issued by the Reserve Bank of India.
The secured creditor through this notice brings to your attention that the Borrower has failed and neglected to repay the said dues/ outstanding liabilities and hence hereby demand you under Section 13(2) of the Act, by issuing this notice to discharge in full the liabilities of the Borrower as stated in Schedule C hereunder to the secured creditor within 60 days from the date of receipt of this notice. Further, it is brought to your notice that you are also liable to pay future interest at the rate of mentioned in schedule C together with all costs, charges, expenses and incidental expenses with respect to the proceedings undertaken by the secured creditor in recovering its dues.
Please take note of the fact that if you fail to repay to the secured creditor the aforesaid sum **Rs. 1,01,45,400.42 (Rupees One Crore One Lakh Forty Five Thousand Four Hundred and Paise Forty Two Only)** as on **30.07.2025** together with further interest (as stated in schedule C) and incidental expenses and costs as stated above in terms of this notice under Section 13(2) of the Act, the secured creditor will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub-section (4)(a) and (b) of Section 13, the extract of which is given here below to convey the seriousness of this issue:
13(4)- In case the Borrower/Guarantor fails to discharge liability in full within the period specified in sub- section (2), the secured creditor may take recourse to one or more of the following measures to recover his secured debt, namely;
(a) Take possession of the secured assets of the Borrower/Guarantor including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured asset;
(b) Take over the management of the business of the Borrower including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured asset:
Provided that the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale shall be exercised only
where the substantial part of the business of the Borrower is held as security for the debt;
Provided further that where the management of whole of the business or part of the business is severable, the secured creditor shall take over the management of such business of the borrower which is relatable to the security for the debt and under other applicable provisions of the said Act.
Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.
You are also put on notice that in terms of Section 13(13) the Borrower/Guarantor shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed in Schedule B hereunder without obtaining written consent of the secured creditor. It is further brought to your notice that any contravention of this statutory injunction/ restraint, as provided under the said Act, is an offence and if for any reason, the secured assets are sold or leased out in the ordinary course of business, the sale proceeds or income realized shall be deposited with the secured creditor. In this regard you shall have to render proper accounts of such realization / income.
This notice of Demand is without prejudice to and shall not be construed as waiver of any other rights or remedies which the secured creditor may have including further demands for the sums found due and payable by you.
This is without prejudice to any other rights available to the secured creditor under the Act and/or any other law in force.
Please comply with the demand under this notice and avoid all unpleasantness. In case of Non- compliance, further needful action will be resorted to, holding you liable for all costs and consequence.
Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

SCHEDULE –A
Details of the credit facility/ies availed by the Borrower

SL NO	Loan No	Nature of Loan / Limit	Date of sanction	Sanctioned Amount (Rs.)	Disbursed Amount (Rs.)
1.	3247619000038	HL	22.02.2018	56,80,000.00	54,00,000.00

SCHEDULE –B
[Details of security assets]

Details of Immovable Assets

SL N	DETAILS OF MORTGAGE PROPERTY:	Name of the title holder
1.	**Details of Security Assets** : SCHEDULE "A" PROPERTY All that piece and parcel of residential converted land bearing Sy. No. 73/5, measuring 1Acre 17 Guntas and residential converted land bearing Sy. No.73/6, measuring 21 guntas , both the properties totally measuring 1 acre 38 guntas (converted vide official memorandum dated 06/7/2013,bearing No. ALN(EVH)SR/443/2012-13,issued by deputy commissioner ,Bangalore District Bangalore. Presently Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagra Palika Khata No. 359/73/5/73/6/17, situated at Balagere Village ,Varthur Hobli ,Bangalore East Taluk,bangalore and bounded on the : **East by:** Remaining portion of Sy. No 73/5 and 73/6; **West by :** Remaining portion of Sy. No 73/5 and 73/6; **North by:** Land bearing Sy. No 73/4; **South by:** Road. **SCHEDULE "B" PROPERTY:** 297 sq.ft Undivided share ,right ,title and interest in the schedule "A" property(proportionate to the schedule "C" property. **SCHEDULE "C" PROPERTY:** A residential apartment bearing No. 204 ,second floor ,in Block A in wing B with SBA 1108 Sq.ft consisting of 2 bedrooms in the multistoried residential apartment building know as "SRI KRISHNA EXCEL STONE" constructed over the schedule "A" property inclusive of proportionate share in the Common areas (including half portion in depth of the joints between the ceiling of apartment and floors of the apartment above it, internal and external walls between such levels) and the building is of RSS roofing as per specification appended hereto with separate electricity ,common water and sanitation ,including all rights, title ,interest ,privileges, appurtenances ,together with Car/Scooter parking slot.	**Sri.Praveen M**

SCHEDULE – C
[Details of liability as on date 30.07.2025

SL NO	Loan No	Nature of Loan / Limit	Principal as on date 30.07.2025	Interest and other charges as on date 30.07.2025	Liability with interest as on date 30.07.2025	rate of interest
1.	3247619000038	HL	Rs. 54,94,836.42	Rs. 46,50,564.00	Rs. 1,01,45,400.42	8.95%

Place : Bangalore
Date : 30.07.2025
Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

ಕೆನರಾ ಬ್ಯಾಂಕ್ Canara Bank (A Government of India Undertaking)
Syndicate

Canara Bank ARM Branch– II,
2nd Floor, Circle Office, Spencer Towers, No.86,
M G Road, Bengaluru - 560001. Telephone numbers :
080-25310099, 080-25310181. Email: cb6298@canarabank.com

DEMAND NOTICE TO BORROWER / GUARANTOR / MORTGAGOR
Notice issued under Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

To,
Borrower : 1) M/s.LANDSEND TRADING SERVICES
A Partnership Firm Rep By: i).Mr.O Raghunatha Reddy ii).Mr.Ajay Agarwal
Registered Office at: No:28, Ground Floor,Raheja Arcade,Koramangala 5th Block, Bangalore-560095.
2) Mr.O Raghunatha Reddy(Partner) S/o.Late Veera Reddy
Resd at No.541/2,1st Cross, 8th Main Road,4th Block, Koramanagala, Bangalore-560034.
3)Mr.Ajay Agarwal (Partner) S/o. O.P. Agarwal
No.C-401,Brindavan Apartments,Uttarahalli Main Road,Bangalore-560061.
4)Mr.Ajay Agarwal (Mortgagor) S/o. O.P. Agarwal
No.C-401,Brindavan Apartments,Uttarahalli Main Road,Bangalore-560061.
5) Mr.O Raghunatha Reddy S/o.Late Veera Reddy (Guarantor)
Resd at No.541/2,1st Cross,8th Main Road,4th Block, Koramanagala, Bangalore-560034.
6)Mr.Ajay Agarwal S/o. O.P. Agarwal (Guarantor)
No.C-401, Brindavan Apartments, Uttarahalli Main Road, Bangalore-560061
The undersigned being the Authorized Officer of **Canara Bank ARM II branch** (hereinafter referred to as "the secured creditor"), appointed under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforc ement of Security Interest Act, 2002, (hereinafter referred as the "Act") do hereby issue this notice to you as under:

That **M/s.LANDSEND TRADING SERVICES** (hereinafter referred to as "the Borrower") has availed credit facility / facilities stated in the Schedule A hereunder and have entered into the security agreement/s in favour of the secured creditor. While availing the said financial assistance, you have expressly undertaken to repay the loan amount/s in accordance with the terms and conditions of the above-mentioned agreements.
That Mr.O Raghunatah Reddy,S/o .Late Veera Reddy and Mr.Ajay Agarwal,S/o O.P. Agarwal (hereinafter referred to as "the Guarantors"), has guaranteed the payment on demand of all moneys and discharge all obligations and liabilities owing or incurred to the secured creditor by the Borrower for credit facilities (Fund based / Non-Fund Based) up to the limit of **Rs. 2,20,00,000.00/- (Rupees Two Crores Twenty Lakhs Only)** with interest thereon.
You **Mr.Ajay Agarwal** have entered into agreements against the secured assets which are detailed in Schedule B hereunder.
However, from **21.01.2018** the operation and conduct of the said financial assistance / credit facilities have become irregular. The books of account maintained by the secured assets shows that the liability of the Borrower towards the secured creditor as on **30.07.2025** amounts to Rs. **7,21,69,672.27 (Seven Crores Twenty-One Lakhs Sixty-Nine Thousand Six hundred and Seventy Two Rupees and Twenty Seven Paise Only)** plus further Interest and charges thereon, the details of which together with future interest rate are stated in Schedule C hereunder. It is further stated that the Borrower/Guarantor having failed to keep up with the terms of the above said agreement in clearing the dues of the secured creditor within the time given and have been evasive in settling the dues. The operation and conduct of the above said financial assistance / credit facility/ies having come to a standstill and as a consequence of the default committed in repayment of principal debt/ instalment and interest thereon, the secured creditor was constrained to classify the debt as Non-Performing Asset (NPA) as on **21.04.2018** in accordance with the directives/guidelines relating to asset classification issued by the Reserve Bank of India.
The secured creditor through this notice brings to your attention that the Borrower has failed and neglected to repay the said dues/ outstanding liabilities and hence hereby demand you under Section 13(2) of the Act, by issuing this notice to discharge in full the liabilities of the Borrower as stated in Schedule C hereunder to the secured creditor within 60 days from the date of receipt of this notice. Further, it is brought to your notice that you are also liable to pay future interest at the rate of mentioned in schedule C together with all costs, charges, expenses and incidental expenses with respect to the proceedings undertaken by the secured creditor in recovering its dues.
Please take note of the fact that if you fail to repay to the secured creditor the aforesaid sum **Rs. 7,21,69,672.27 (Seven Crores Twenty One Lakhs Sixty Nine Thousand Six hundred and Seventy Two Rupees and Twenty Seven Paise Only)** as on **30.07.2025** together with further interest (as stated in schedule C) and incidental expenses and costs as stated above in terms of this notice under Section 13(2) of the Act, the secured creditor will exercise all or any of the rights detailed under sub-section (4)(a) and (b) of Section 13, the extract of which is given here below to convey the seriousness of this issue:
13(4)- In case the Borrower/Guarantor fails to discharge liability in full within the period specified in sub- section (2), the secured creditor may take recourse to one or more of the following measures to recover his secured debt, namely;
(a) Take possession of the secured assets of the Borrower/Guarantor including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured asset;
(b) Take over the management of the business of the Borrower including the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale for realizing the secured asset:
Provided that the right to transfer by way of lease, assignment or sale shall be exercised only
where the substantial part of the business of the Borrower is held as security for the debt;
Provided further that where the management of whole of the business or part of the business is severable, the secured creditor shall take over the management of such business of the borrower which is relatable to the security for the debt and under other applicable provisions of the said Act.
Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.
You are also put on notice that in terms of Section 13(13) the Borrower/Guarantor shall not transfer by way of sale, lease or otherwise the said secured assets detailed in Schedule B hereunder without obtaining written consent of the secured creditor. It is further brought to your notice that any contravention of this statutory injunction/ restraint, as provided under the said Act, is an offence and if for any reason, the secured assets are sold or leased out in the ordinary course of business, the sale proceeds or income realized shall be deposited with the secured creditor. In this regard you shall have to render proper accounts of such realization / income.
This notice of Demand is without prejudice to and shall not be construed as waiver of any other rights or remedies which the secured creditor may have including further demands for the sums found due and payable by you.
This is without prejudice to any other rights available to the secured creditor under the Act and/or any other law in force.
Please comply with the demand under this notice and avoid all unpleasantness. In case of Non- compliance, further needful action will be resorted to, holding you liable for all costs and consequence.
Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

SCHEDULE –A
Details of the credit facility/ies availed by the Borrower

SL NO	Loan No	Nature of Loan / Limit	Date of sanction	Sanctioned Amount (Rs.)	Disbursed Amount (Rs.)
1.	0887256010378	OCC	05.01.2016	2,20,00,000.00	Running Limit

SCHEDULE –B
[Details of security assets]

Details of Immovable Assets

SL N	DETAILS OF MORTGAGE PROPERTY:	Name of the title holder
1.	**Details of Security Assets** : SCHEDULE "A" **PROPERTY** : All that piece and parcel of the Two Apartment Units/Flats bearing No.E 12 and E 16,on the Fifth Floor,having Super Built -up area of 478.12 Square Feet and 465.68 Square Feet respectively constructed on;along with an Undivided share of 147.856 Square Feet and 143.947 Square Feet respectively in the residentially converted lands measuring 15,790 Square feet or 11 Guntas plus 3.08 Guntas,in Sy.No .47/1 and Sy No.48 of Doddathoguru Village,Begur Hobli,Bangalore South Taluk,along with one car parking in basement Floor,and the entire Land is bounded on the: **East by:** Property belonging to Raghavendra Naik, **West by:** Remaining portion of Land in Sy.No47/1 and Sy No.48,**North by:**Property belonging to Sri.Yella Reddy & **South by:** Property belonging to Tamma Reddy and Others. **SCHEDULE "B" PROPERTY:** All that piece and parcel of the Two Apartment Units/Flats bearing No.F 05 and F 06 ,on the Fifth Floor,having Super Built-up area of 465.78 Square Feet each constructed on;along with an Undivided Share of143.97 square feet each,in the reseidentially converted Lands measuring 15,790 Square feet or 11 Guntas plus 3.08 Guntas ,in Sy .No 47/1 and Sy.No.48 of Doddathoguru village,Begur Hobli,Bangalore South Taluk,along with one car parking slot in the basement floor and the entire Land is bounded on the:**East by:** Property belonging to Raghavendra Naik, **West by:** Remaining portion of Land in Sy.No47/1 and Sy No.48 **North by:** Property belonging to Sri.Yella Reddy & And **South by:** Property belonging to Tamma Reddy and Others. **SCHEDULE "C" PROPERTY:** All that piece and parcel of the Two Apartment Units/Flats bearing No.D 18 and D 19,on the Third Floor,having Super Built-up area of 465.78 Square Feet and 478.12 Square Feet respectively constructed on;along with an Undivided share of 143.947 Square feet and 147.856 Square Feet respectively, in the residentially converted Lands measuring 15,790 Square Feet or 11 Guntas plus 3.08 Guntas,in Sy.No .47/1 and Sy.No.48 of Doddathoguru village,Begur Hobli,Bangalore South Taluk,along with one car parking slot in the basement floor and the entire Land is bounded on the: **East by:** Property belonging to Raghavendra Naik ,**West by:** Remaining portion of Land in Sy.No47/1 and Sy No.48 , Property belonging to Sri.Yella Reddy & And **South by:**Property belonging to Tamma Reddy and Others **SCHEDULE "D" PROPERTY:** All that piece and parcel of the Two Apartment Units/Flats bearing No.E 05 and E 06 ,on the Fourth Floor,having Super Built-Up area of 465.48 Square Feet each constructed on;along with an Undivided share of 143.947 Square feet each,in the residentially converted Lands measuring 15,790 Square feet or 11 Guntas plus 3.08 Guntas ,in Sy .No 47/1 and Sy.No.48 of Doddathoguru Village,Begur Hobli,Bangalore South Taluk,along with one car parking slot in the basement floor and the entire Land is bounded on the: **East by:** Property belonging to Raghavendra Naik, **West by:** Remaining portion of Land in Sy.No.47/1 and Sy No.48, **North by:** Property belonging to Sri.Yella Reddy & **South by:** Property belonging to Tamma Reddy and Others. **SCHEDULE "E" PROPERTY:** All that piece and parcel of the Two Apartment Units/Flats bearing No.E 07 and E 11 ,on the Fourth Floor,having Super Built-Up area of 478.12 Square Feet and 465.48 Square Feet respectively constructed on along with an Undivided share of 147.856 Square Feet and 143.947 Square Feet respectively, in the residentially converted Lands measuring 15,790 Square Feet or 11 Guntas plus 3.08,in Sy .No.47/1 and Sy.No/48 of Doddathoguru Village,Begur Hobli,Bangalore South Taluk,along with one car parking slot in the basement floor and the entire Land is bounded on the: **East by:** Property belonging to Raghavendra Naik,**West by:** Remaining portion of Land in Sy.No47/1 and Sy No.48, **North by:** Property belonging to Sri.Yella Reddy & And **South by:** Property belonging to Tamma Reddy and Others.	**Mr. Ajay Agarwal**

SCHEDULE – C
[Details of liability as on date 30.07.2025

SL NO	Loan No	Nature of Loan / Limit	Principal as on date 30.07.2025	Interest and other charges as on date 30.07.2025	Liability with interest as on date 30.07.2025	rate of interest
1.	0887256010378	OCC	Rs. 2,18,66,717.52	Rs. 5,03,02,954.75	Rs. 7,21,69,672.27	11.85%

Place : Bangalore
Date : 31.07.2025
Authorised Officer
Canara Bank
Our Earlier Demand Notice Dt: 09.11.2018 Stands Cancelled

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Ongoing war: Students' bags are kept in front of a school building damaged in a bombardment by Myanmar's military at the Ohe Htein Twin village, Sagaing Region, on May 12. AFP

Why a progressive Indian policy on Myanmar is more than plausible

New Delhi has long defined its 'interests' in the Southeast Asian country in narrow strategic terms. However, it is possible for India to put in place a more progressive, values-driven Myanmar policy that works in favour, and not against, its national interests

Angshuman Choudhury

Late last month, the Myanmar junta ended the country's state of emergency and called for elections in December, even as the multi-sided civil war rages on. In this article dated June 22, 2024, Angshuman Choudhury outlines how Indian foreign policy towards the Myanmar junta should change in order to establish influence with its neighbour.

Three years on, the military in Myanmar, which overthrew the elected civilian government in February 2021, continues to kill, maim and displace its own people. India has steadfastly maintained formal relations with this regime, which has so far murdered more than 5,000 people and displaced some 2.5 million people. In its second tenure, the Narendra Modi government did very little to engage with the pro-democracy resistance, which now has both political and military wings. Indian foreign policy scholars and practitioners have doggedly defended this policy by arguing that India needs to work with the junta if it has to protect its "interests" in Myanmar and not get swayed by an idealistic preoccupation with "values".

How India can step out of China's shadow

But, in foreign policy, there is no clear line between "values" and "interests" simply because neither has a standard definition. It all depends on how a country defines these terms. This is also the case with India's Myanmar policy. New Delhi has long defined its "interests" in the Southeast Asian country in narrow strategic terms. But now, it needs to leverage a unique set of "values" to better defend its interests. It is possible for India to put in place a more progressive, values-driven Myanmar policy that works in favour, and not against, its national interests.

This new policy should have two key pivots, namely, democracy and human security. The new National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government, therefore, needs to take four interlocking steps immediately.

First, India needs to use its credentials as the largest federal democracy in the region to sharpen its influence in Myanmar. For long, Myanmar's pro-democracy political elites and civil society have looked up to India as a model of a federal democratic union with a well-oiled power-sharing arrangement between the centre and various subnational units. This is even more relevant today as the democratic resistance in Myanmar, which is led by the National Unity Government (NUG), dozens of ethnic revolutionary organisations, civil society organisations, and trade unions, strives to replace the military-drafted 2008 constitution with a federal constitution. By helping this vibrant opposition achieve its aim through capacity-building and knowledge exchange programmes, India can distinguish itself from China, its primary regional competitor in Myanmar. Both Beijing and New Delhi can sell military hardware to Myanmar, but only India can sell the spirit of federal cooperation. Here is a chance for the new Indian government to outmanoeuvre the Chinese in their own 'backyard'.

Weapons sales and humanitarian outreach

Second, India needs to immediately halt all weapon sales to the Myanmar military. According to the advocacy group, Justice For Myanmar (JFM), Indian state-owned military hardware manufacturers have sold a range of non-lethal and semi-lethal equipment to the junta since the 2021 coup. In its most recent report, published on March 27, the group claimed that on January 2, the Indian Air Force transferred a package which had 52 items, including navigation and communication parts, to its Myanmar counterpart. Another recent investigation by Frontier Myanmar claims that India sold more than $1.5 million worth of navy-grade diesel to junta-linked entities since the coup. New Delhi needs to immediately put a stop to these, as the Myanmar military continues to use all its three services – the army, air force, and navy – to attack non-combatant civilians using imprecise lethal tactics.

Third, India needs to immediately open cross-border humanitarian corridors to help civilians affected by the conflict along three border provinces – Sagaing Region, Chin State and northern Rakhine State. According to United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) data, Sagaing Region has seen the largest quantum of internal displacement in all of Myanmar since the coup (as of March 25, 2024). Rakhine comes next, while Chin State sits tenth in the list. Continuing air strikes by the junta and clashes between armed groups in these areas have only pushed more civilians across the borders. New Delhi needs to first revoke its plans to fence the India-Myanmar border and reinstate the Free Movement Regime, or the FMR, which the Union Home Ministry suspended in February 2024. Then, it should engage existing humanitarian aid networks along the India-Myanmar border to send emergency relief assistance including medicines, food and tarpaulin to the other side. Mizoram, where a multi-layered asylum and aid ecosystem is already operational, is a good starting point. India should also collaborate with local and international non-governmental organisations with experience in the field. Best practices from Thailand, which recently started cross-border aid deliveries into Myanmar, should also be adopted.

New Delhi should use its clout to ensure that the aid is not distributed by the junta, which not only has a disastrous track record in this field, but is also not even in control of large areas along the India-Myanmar border. It is also possible to run cross-border aid corridors without allowing contraband to pass through, with stringent checks and pre-delivery vetting.

Detention of asylum seekers

Fourth, the Narendra Modi government should immediately halt the detention and deportation of asylum seekers from Myanmar. This is especially so in the case of Manipur, where the BJP-led government has so far deported 115 asylum seekers to Myanmar – the latest round was on June 11. These are people who entered India not because they wanted to or with mal-intent, but because they were forced to. Regardless of the fact that India has not ratified the 1951 Refugee Convention, it is incumbent upon the government to treat them as refugees in need of humanitarian assistance and protection rather than as "illegal immigrants". Both the Indian Constitution and international law allow the Indian state to do so. In fact, the customary international legal principle of non-refoulement discourages India from deporting refugees back to a home country where they face a threat of persecution or death. The Centre should also urge the BJP-led Assam government to release the 27 Chin refugees detained in the State and house them in a humane refugee shelter.

India, the "Vishwabandhu", routinely claims to stand with the people of Myanmar. It should now walk the talk.

Angshuman Choudhury is a New Delhi-based researcher and writer from Assam, and formerly an Associate Fellow at the Centre for Policy Research.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

August 5 marks one year since the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government in Bangladesh. Here is a quiz on the events surrounding the regime change

Vighnesh P Venkitesh

QUESTION 1
What decision by the Bangladesh high court triggered the students' protests that led to the fall of the government?

QUESTION 2
At least 97 people were killed a day before Ms. Hasina fled the country when clashes erupted during students' protests. Under what banner were the students protesting?

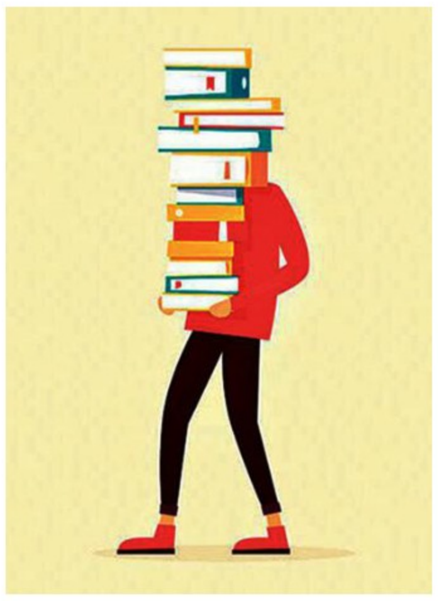
QUESTION 3
What was the derogatory and controversial word, used to denote people who helped Pakistani troops during the Liberation War in 1971, that Ms. Hasina called protesters?

QUESTION 4
Name the organisation and the economic instrument it was based on that was set up by Muhammad Yunus who took over as Chief Adviser to the interim government in the country.

QUESTION 5
Name the court in Bangladesh that on Sunday began the trial of Ms. Hasina over crimes against humanity.

Visual question:
What was this building, which was razed by a mob on February 6, called? Name the person who used to reside here. REUTERS

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The significance of the film Muqaddar. **Ans: Kishore Kumar made his debut as an actor**
2. This song was used in a *The Simpsons'* episode. **Ans: 'Pal Bhar Ke Liye' from *Johnny Mera Naam***
3. This poem that Kishore penned was made into a song. **Ans: 'Main hoon jhum jhum jhumroo' (in *Jhumroo*)**
4. The premise of the flick *Hum Do Daaku*. **Ans: Searching for hidden treasure in the ancient cities of Mohenjo-daro and Harappa**
5. For crooning this evergreen number Kishore won the first of the record eight Filmfare Awards. **Ans: 'Roop Tera Mastana' from *Aradhana***
6. Kishore Kumar's spouses apart from Madhubala. **Ans: Ruma Guha Thakurta, Yogeeta Bali and Leena Chandravarkar**
7. This song had Kishore singing alongside Mohd. Rafi, Mukesh, and Lata Mangeshkar. **Ans: 'Humko Tumse Ho Gaya Hai Pyaar' from *Amar Akbar Anthony***
8. Kishore lend his voice for more than 200 songs to this actor. **Ans: Jeetendra**
Visual: Name the authors of *Kishore Kumar: The Ultimate Biography*. **Ans: Anirudha Bhattacharjee and Parthiv Dhar**
Early Birds: M. Suresh Kumar| Pranab Biswas



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know Your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

"How do you pronounce l.a.c.k.a.d.a.i.s.i.c.a.l?"

"That's a big word. Let me see now. The first syllable lack rhymes with the words back, pack and sack. The 'a' in the second syllable is pronounced like the 'a' in China. Dai in the third syllable is pronounced the same way as day. The 's' in the fourth syllable is like the 'z' in words like zip, zoo and zebra."

"And I suppose the final 'a' is like the 'a' in China again?"

"That's right. And the main stress is on the third syllable dai."

"So the word is pronounced lackaDAIsical? Is that right?"

"That's right. Do you know what lackadaisical means?"

"Doesn't it mean lazy or something like that?"

"Well, sort of. If you say someone is lackadaisical, it means that he/she does not show any enthusiasm or interest in something. For example, I can say, Some of our students are very lackadaisical about doing their homework."

"You can't blame them, can you? Can I say, The Indian team has been playing lackadaisically?"

"You certainly can. Here's another example. My boss is very lackadaisical about keeping appointments."

"My sister is annoyingly lackadaisical about sports."

"Ditto!"

"Ditto? What does that mean?"

"When somebody says something and you respond by saying ditto, it means that you feel or think the same way as the other person. For example, if I say, I loved to watch Gaby play and you respond by saying ditto..."

"...it would mean that I loved to watch Gaby play too! Right?"

"That's right. By the way, the stress is on the first syllable of ditto."

"I see. Do you have any plans for the next weekend?"

"I have to get my scooter fixed. But other than that, I have no plans."

"That's great. Then you can come with me to my friend's house. He's got a beautiful house in the beach."

"He's got a beautiful house on the beach, not in the beach."

"Would you like to see this house on the beach?"

"No!"

"You're such a bore! What if this house were on the desert? Would you come then?"

"If the house were in the desert, I might have come..."

"...in the desert? Not on the desert?"

"That's right."

"It's on the beach, but in the desert! I think English is a really crazy language."

"Ditto!"

Published in The Hindu on July 8, 1997.

Word of the day

Clamour:
loud and persistent outcry from many people; utter or proclaim insistently and noisily; make loud demands

Synonym: hue and cry

Usage: *He ignored the clamour of the crowd.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/clamourpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈklæm.ə/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

CET and NEET: 26,555 seats in professional courses have not been allocated this year

A total of 1,35,954 seats in various professional courses are available for allotment through KEA for the current academic year

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The admission process for professional courses, including engineering and medicine and others, for the academic year 2025-26 has begun, and 26,555 seats have not been allocated owing to various reasons, including the option entry with emphasis on only limited colleges.

The final result of the seat allotment for professional courses was announced by the Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) on August 2.

Accordingly, a total of 1,35,954 seats in various professional courses are available for allotment through KEA for the current academic year. Out of these, only 1,09,399 seats have been allocated to candidates.

CET and NEET: First round seat allotment

Course	Intake	Allotted	Remaining
BSc Nursing	31,726	15,186	16,540
Engineering	77,140	71,813	5,327
BSc Allied Health Sciences	3,956	2,627	1,329
Medical	9,263	8,321	942
Dental	2,619	2,137	482

Many seats are not allocated in BSc Nursing. Out of the total 31,726 seats available in the course, only 15,186 have been allocated.

Out of the 77,140 seats available in engineering courses, 71,813 have been allocated. Out of the 9,263 seats available in medical courses, 8,321 have been allocated. In BSc Allied Health Sciences, 1,329 seats are yet to be allocated.

"Without checking their ranks and cut-off marks, students have taken option entry for only four to five colleges as their first choice in the hope of getting a seat in the top colleges. Due to minimum number of colleges being selected, thousands of students, despite having good rank in Common Entrance Test (CET), have not got a seat in any college. In the wake of such option entry with emphasis on limited colleges, when the mock allotment result was announced, about 51,935 students were not allotted a seat in any college," according to a KEA official.

Also, while a small number of candidates have applied for special category quota seats, including rural, Kannada medium, Non-Resident Indian (NRI) quota and others, those quota seats have also remained vacant without being allotted to any student, KEA sources said.

H. Prasanna, executive director of KEA, told *The Hindu*, "Since students have given option entry to only a limited number of colleges, the seats not been allotted ranges between 35% and 40%. We have been advising students to give option entry to more colleges since the beginning, but they have not followed it. Otherwise, seats under various quotas are not allotted due to non-availability of candidates."

"The seats not allotted in the first round will be given for the option entry in the second and third rounds. The various quota seats not allotted to any candidates will be converted into general merit seats in the final round, and option entry will be given. For example, if there are no candidates available for rural and Kannada medium quota seats, those seats will be converted into general merit seats. SC/ST rural quota seats will be converted into SC/ST regular seats, and option entry will be given. This will fill almost all the seats," he explained.

From Page One

HC calls for putting on hold RTC strike by a day; unions firm

When the advocates for the State government and the transport corporations pointed out that the corporations had no funds to meet the demands of the unions as it would required ₹2,200 crore and the funds had to be made available by the State government, the Bench orally remarked, "You [State government] are paying [free] for the passengers, but you are not ready to pay for them [staff]."

The Bench orally said that the trade unions had not acted suddenly while noticing that they had given notice on indefinite strike on July 15 and based on this the conciliation process was initiated and two rounds of conciliation meetings were held on July 28 and Augst 2, and the conciliation process would continue on August 7.

Earlier, Deeksha N. Amruthesh, advocate representing the petitioners, pointed out to the Bench that the petitioners were not against the demands made by the trade unions but were against the strike as it would severely affect the common people, who are depending on the public transport buses to reach the work places to earn their livelihood.

The Bench adjourned further hearing till August 5 while ordering notice to the Joint Action Committee of trade unions of the employees of the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporations.

Cong. postpones protest following Soren's death

Asked about the BJP's counter-protest, Mr. Shivakumar said, "We welcome criticism and protests in a democracy. They are supporting the Election Commission. The commission must be impartial."

Mr. Gandhi had said, "In Karnataka, we have found out *bhayankar chori* (massive theft). I will show it in black and white to you and the Election Commission. I will show in black and white how the *chori* is done and from where. We have it in black and white in Karnataka."

BJP too puts off protest

Meanwhile, the BJP, which had scheduled a counter protest in front of the Mahatma Gandhi statue on Vidhana Soudha premises too, has put off its protest.

Mall guard held for misbehaving with woman

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Kengeri police recently arrested a mall's security guard for allegedly misbehaving with a woman and assaulting her after she objected to his behaviour.

Based on a complaint by the victim, the police arrested the accused identified as Chandrahasa.

Used to misbehave

The accused allegedly used to misbehave with women visiting the mall and the victim who runs a nearby shop noticed this and objected. She even raised a complaint with the manager.

The police said that the accused allegedly confronted her and flashed her, hurling abuses at her. The accused also allegedly assaulted the victim when she objected to his behaviour.

Passers-by help

Passers-by rushed to her help and caught the accused before handing him over to the police.

The accused has been remanded in judicial custody while further investigation is on.

Two more arrested for posting indecent comments against Ramya

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Central Crime Branch officials arrested two more persons on Sunday for allegedly posting indecent comments against Ramya, actor and former MP, on her social media account.

With this arrest, the police have tracked down four accused while efforts are on to track down the rest, who are on the run.

Ms. Ramya had shared the Supreme Court observations regarding the murder of Renukaswamy in which Kannada actor Darshan is among the accused, which attracted the wrath of his fans who allegedly made inappropriate comments and threats to her.

Based on a complaint, the police registered a case against the accused under the IT Act.

Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh warned people against posting any indecent comments, threats, and hate messages on social media, especially against women and public figures.

Gang stabs private firm employee to death

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A gang of four armed men stabbed a youth to death and assaulted two others when they refused to pay them money in Byadarahalli on Sunday.

The deceased was identified as Prem, working at a service centre.

The police said that he was returning home with two of his friends after work.

The accused, identified as Vishal and his friend Naveen, rowdy sheeters in Rajagopalnagar police station, along with Hemanth and Puneeth, allegedly got drunk and went around the area to extort money from people returning home.

Health Dept. brings AYUSH medicines under FSDA purview

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After merging the Drugs Control Department with the Food Safety Authority, the Health Department has now brought all AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy) medicines and AYUSH testing laboratories under the purview of the Food Safety and Drug Administration (FSDA).

Announcing this at a press conference on Monday, Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said the move is to control the quality of medicines being prescribed under the alternative systems of medicine.

Moreover, the department has also reduced the time it takes to recall substandard medicines from the market.

Earlier, once a drug was flagged as 'Not of Standard Quality' (NSQ), it could take up to 30 days for it to be removed from pharmacies and distributors. Now that time has been cut to just two days, the Minister said.

NSQ drugs

Pointing out that it is a crucial decision, the Health Minister said NSQ medicines, if left on shelves, may continue to be consumed by patients.

This June alone, drugs worth ₹40.48 lakh that did not meet safety standards were recalled and seized across the State, he said.

Giving details about the drives conducted by the FSDA in the last few months, the Minister said: "In July, 1,433 drug samples were analysed by testing laboratories located in Bengaluru, Hubballi, and Ballari. Of these, 67 were found to be substandard, with the department filing 29 cases."

A two-day special enforcement drive was also conducted from June 24, during which 279 inspections were carried out at drug stores across the State and 231 show-cause notices issued, while 15 compliance notices were served, he said.

Online applications

All applications related to blood centres are now processed through the Online National Drugs Licensing System (ONDLS) Portal, with licences issued exclusively online. In addition, an online platform has been launched to issue Recognised Medical Institution (RMI) certificates required by institutions authorised to handle essential narcotic drugs, he said.

A total of 1,557 street food eateries were inspected, and items including fruits, vegetables, water bottles, bakery products and spice powders were checked, with 406 found violating safety norms. Spot fines amounting to ₹44,500 were collected from these violators. At 186 bus stands across the State, 889 food stalls were inspected, and 206 were found in violation, the Minister said.

Pointing out that the restaurant is now preparing kebabs without colours, the Minister urged the public to demand better quality and report cases where they find eateries serving artificially coloured food.

'Those who faced wildlife conflicts less likely to feel positively about forests'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A new study conducted within a five-kilometre buffer around two protected areas, Bandipur and Nagarahole national parks, has revealed that landowners who had faced wildlife conflicts were less likely to feel positively about forests.

In the study 'Contradictions in Conservation: Education, Income, and the Desire to Live Near Forest Ecosystems', conducted by the Centre for Wildlife Studies (CWS), scientists surveyed 699 landowners bordering the Bandipur and Nagarahole parks.

"The study revealed a strong link between negative experiences with wildlife and attitudes toward forests. Landowners who had encountered wildlife conflicts were significantly less inclined to enjoy living near forests – being 116% less likely to do so – and were 67% less likely to perceive forests as contributing to a pleasant environment," CWS said.

The study was led by Dincy Mariyam from CWS, along with co-authors Sumeet Gulati from University of British Columbia, and Krithi K. Karanth from CWS.

The study estimated the community's inclination to live close to a forest based on perceived costs such as wildlife-related losses or the lack of access to basic facilities and opportunities. The survey also evaluated perceived benefits – whether they believed that the forest regulates climate and rainfall.

CWS added that the study highlights the need for wildlife conflict mitigation and access to livelihood linked to forests in order to strengthen local support for conservation.

Probe ordered into death of 19 peacocks

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Environment Minister B. Eshwar Khandre, on Monday, ordered a probe into the death of 19 peacocks after the bird carcasses were found on a farmland at Medigeshi village of Madhugiri taluk in Tumakuru district.

Mr. Khandre instructed the Chief Wildlife Warden (CWLW) to constitute a team headed by a Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF) to investigate the deaths.

The Minister sought an investigation report to be submitted within five days and take action as per the rules.

He said that the government has taken the death of the national bird seriously. He said that, according to media reports, the death of the peacocks was due to pesticide consumption.

The Minister has directed the team to investigate whether pesticide was indeed used to kill the peacocks or if the birds died after feeding on crops laden with pesticides sprayed by farmers.

'Gajapayana' of Dasara elephants flagged off

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Gajapayana, the traditional but symbolic march of the elephants from their forest camps to the city of palaces, was flagged off at Veeranahosahalli near the Nagarahole Tiger Reserve on Monday.

After the traditional rituals and special worship of the jumbos, which were held between 12.34 p.m. and 12.59 p.m., the first batch of the caparisoned elephants led by tusker Abhimanyu began their journey to Mysuru.

With 'Gajapayana', the countdown to the famous Dasara festivities has begun, setting the stage for the annual event witnessed by lakhs of people.

This year's festivities are scheduled in the month of September. Of the 14 elephants selected to participate in the festivities, the first batch of nine elephants were ceremoniously flagged off, after the rituals conducted by a group of priests.

Abhimanyu during the Gajapayana at Veeranahosahalli near Nagarahole Tiger Reserve on Monday. M.A. SRIRAM

Minister for Forest, Ecology, and Environment Eshwar Khandre, Minister for Animal Husbandry and Sericulture K. Venkatesh, G.D. Harish Gowda, Tanveer Sait, Ravishankar, MLAs, and senior officials from the Forest Department and elected representatives from the district took part in the grand 'Gajayapana'.

A large number of people, including local residents, tribals, and some tourists, watched the colourful proceedings. The event came alive by vibrant cultural performances that added colour and charm.

Abhimanyu, who led the first batch of elephants, will carry the 750-kg golden howdah on the day of Vijayadashami procession. Other elephants include, Dhananjaya, Bheema, Kanjan, Ekalayva, Prashanth, Mahendra, Kaveri, and Balle Lakshmi. The second batch of five elephants from other camps will join Abhimanyu's team later this month.

After marching for a distance, the elephants were transported in trucks to Mysuru. On reaching Mysuru, the elephants will be camping at the Aranya Bhavan for a couple of days, before their traditional welcome into the Mysore palace on August 7.

The district administration and the Mysuru Palace Board have made elaborate arrangements for the stay of elephants, mahouts, and their family members on the palace premises. Enclosures have been built for the jumbos and temporary shelters have been established for the mahouts.

A dedicated team of forest officials headed by the Deputy Conservator of Forests will be in charge of the elephants. While veterinarians will oversee the health of the elephants, forest personnel will look after their needs until the festivities get over. Special diet will be provided to the elephants.

Speaking after flagging off the event, Mr. Khandre emphasised the responsibility of the people in wildlife conservation. "It is everybody's responsibility to protect wildlife even as we enjoy watching them in safaris and zoos and caparisoned elephants in Dasara procession."

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, AUG. 05
RISE 06:06 SET 18:45
RISE 15:36 SET 02:08

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 06
RISE 06:06 SET 18:45
RISE 16:30 SET 03:02

THURSDAY, AUG. 07
RISE 06:06 SET 18:44
RISE 17:22 SET 03:59

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	24
Mysuru	29	20
Bengaluru	29	21

Bengaluru Today
27°C The weather will be comfortable. Night will be pleasant. Spell of moderate to heavy rain and thundershower to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be comfortable. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower will occur.

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THE HINDU
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ISSN 0971 - 751X

Nagamohan Das panel submits report on SC internal quota

The 1,766-page report will be discussed by the Cabinet and is likely to be placed before the State legislature

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The over-three-decade struggle for internal reservation among the 101 Scheduled Castes in Karnataka reached a crucial point on Monday with the one-man commission headed by retired judge H.N. Nagamohan Das submitting its 1,766-page report with six recommendations.

The commission considered social and educational backwardness along with adequate representation in public employment before arriving at a matrix for quota within the 17% reservation for SCs in public education and employment.

Retired judge H.N. Nagamohan Das submiting the report on internal reservation for SCs in Karnataka, to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in Bengaluru on Monday.

Journey of quota

A delegation from the commission, led by Mr. Nagamohan Das, met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and handed over the report in the presence of Social Welfare Minister H.C. Mahadevappa, Home Minister G. Parameshwara, Kannada and Culture Minister Shivaraj Tangadagi, IT & BT Minister Priyank Kharge and Excise Minister R.B. Thimmapur.

"The report will be placed in the next Cabinet meeting and a decision on its future course will be taken. It is likely that the report could be placed before the State legislature during the ensuing Monsoon Session commencing on August 11," sources in the government said.

While the government is yet to discuss the report, the Dalit left (Madigas) group, which has been demanding internal reservation, has become restive and has threatened a protest from August 11 for its implementation. The State government has stopped recruitment awaiting the recommendations, causing anxiety among job aspirants.

The government had tasked the commission to recommend internal reservation slicing up the 17% quota among Dalit right (Holeyas), Dalit left (Madigas), Korma, Korcha, Lambani, Bhovi and over 40 nomadic castes based on the August 1, 2024 ruling of the Supreme Court that cleared the decks for internal reservation by upholding its constitutional validity under Article 14.

Challenges for survey

Though the government asked Mr. Nagamohan Das, in January 2025, to recommend internal reservation, the retired judge, in his interim report in March 2025, recommended a State-wide survey to collect data scientifically, as mandated by the court, following which the survey had been conducted.

The commission, after conducting a house-to-house survey across Karnataka between May 5 and July 6, identified 1.07 crore persons from 27.24 lakh families hailing from the SC community. About 93% of the projected SC population of about 1.16 crore in Karnataka has been covered. The survey lagged in BBMP jurisdiction, touching about 54% after several extensions.

Internal reservation has been a demand from Dalit left groups, which have accused the Dalit right groups of cornering the benefits of reservation.

Several castes within the broader SC community have also not been beneficiaries of reservation with no representation in public employment nor political representation, and poor or no benefits in educational avenues besides facing social discrimination.

'5 categories proposed'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

While the survey data and recommendations have not been officially released, several government sources said that the commission is learnt to have proposed five categories based on backwardness, along with caste consideration, and 17% has been sliced up among them. The classification is scientific and has drawn experience from the Mandal Commission report and Supreme Court guidelines. Despite awareness created to specify castes instead of nomenclatures such as Adi Karnataka, Adi Dravida and Adi Andhra, it is learnt that several lakhs of the 1.07 crore population have mentioned their castes as AD, AK or AA. Sources said that there were genuine cases where people did not know their castes, but some also did not want to specify their castes. "It was these nomenclatures that had earlier led to confusion over specific caste numbers. Both Dalit left and right group members have these certificates. This group also has been accommodated in the reservation matrix," sources added.

Dharmasthala burials: Skeletal remains found at new location near site no. 11

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the alleged burials at Dharmasthala found a few skeletal remains at a new location, which was near site no. 11, in the temple town, on Monday.

As the SIT was preparing to dig at site no. 11, which was among the 13 burial sites identified by the 50-year-old complainant, he suggested that a site at a new location nearby also be dug.

The SIT personnel found a human skull and a few bones of a human body at the new site in the Banglegudde area.

SIT personnel collecting the skeletal remains of a body found at a new location, near site no. 11, in Dharmasthala on Monday.

Suspected suicide

A red sari with a knot, which was suspected as a suicide knot, was found at the end of a tree at the site, sources said.

Prima facie, forensic doctors opined it could be that of a male who might have ended his life.

However, the SIT officials said that only detailed forensic examination would reveal whether the skeletal remains were of an individual or multiple persons. Assistant Commissioner, Puttur Sub-division, Stella Varghese, was at the spot.

Lab tests

The SIT has already sent skeletal remains found at site no. 6 to the Forensic Science Laboratory for examination.

Complainant asks SIT officials that a site at a new location which is not among the 13 identified by him earlier, also be dug

The SIT personnel dug up as many as 10 sites as of Saturday.

Complaint filed

Meanwhile, one T. Jayant filed a complaint with Dharmasthala police on Monday, accusing a police official of burying the body of a 15-year-old girl without registering a case.

He claimed the body was found lying by the side of the road abutting the forest in the period between 2002 and 2003.

He accused the official of falsely informing local people that it was the body of a 40-year-old woman who had committed suicide.

'Unregistered burial'

Without registering any case, the body was buried, he alleged.

The Dharmasthala police, who received the complaint, said further action will be taken on the complaint.

It was on August 2 that Mr. Jayant had taken this complaint to the SIT, which asked him to approach the local police.

Bail plea of accused rejected in Neha Hiremath murder case

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

The First Additional District and Sessions Court, Hubballi, on Monday rejected the bail plea of prime accused in the Neha Hiremath murder case Fayaz Khondunayak.

The advocate for the accused filed the bail petition under Section 483 of BNS and after hearing arguments, judge Pallavi B.R. on Monday passed the order rejecting the bail plea and posted the case to August 6 for fixing the date of trial.

Judge posts the case to August 6 for fixing the date of trial

Neha Hiremath, a first year MCA student and daughter of Congress councillor Niranjan Hiremath, was stabbed to death by the accused Fayaz on the university campus in April 2024. Fayaz who fled from the scene was caught on the same day.

The shocking murder evoked widespread condemnation and protest against "Love Jihad" across the country.

The case was subsequently handed over to the Criminal Investigation Department by the State government.

Retired bank officers stage protest

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A large number of retired bank officers, under the banner of the Coordination of Bank Pensioners and Retirees Organisations (CBPRO), held a day-long hunger strike in Bengaluru recently, demanding long-pending pension revisions.

Their key demands included the implementation of a pension revision that had been overdue since 1993, restoration of the old pension scheme, improved health insurance, and inclusion of special pay in pension calculations.

They also highlighted anomalies in the State Bank of India's pension structure, particularly for retirees who were denied a 50% pension after March 1999. Ravi Kumar G.S. of AIBOC inaugurated the protest and extended full support to the retirees. Senior leaders, including K.V. Acharya, A.N. Krishnamurthy, G.D. Nadaf, and Gopinath Rao, participated. The protesters emphasised the retirees' rightful claim to dignity and justice.

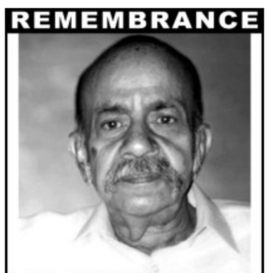
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
BALLARI MEDICAL COLLEGE AND RESEARCH CENTRE, BALLARI.
Reg.No:205/1995-96-Recognized by Medical Council of India, New Delhi vide No:MCI-57(3)/79-Med/1912, Dtd.16-04-1979 &Endst. No.MCI-37(1)(Recog.-18)(UG)/2017-Med./109629,Dt: 06/05/2019
DIRECTOR: 8147796529 PRINCIPAL :8147796527
CAO:8147796526 PA : 8147796539.
e-mail-ids:directorbmcrcballari@gmail.com, website : https://vims.karnataka.gov.inprincipalbmcrcballari@gmail.com
No:BMCRC/ SUP/TEND/ENDOSCOPY/09/2025-26/Call/2205 DATE:02.08.2025
e-TENDER NOTIFICATION
Tenders is invited from the eligible bidders for Supply of Neuro Endoscopy to Department of Neurosurgery, TCC, BMCRC, Ballari under Two bid system through e-procurement portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in of Government of Karnataka as per the KTPP Act-1999-2000. The interested bidders are request to submit the proposal in prescribed format in above said e-portal on or before **18.08.2025 up to 5.00 PM.** The total approximate cost of tender is **Rs. 160.00 Lakhs.** Further details may be obtained in the above said website and www.vims.karnataka.gov.in.
Sd/- Dean & Director, BMCRC, Ballari
DIPR/Ballari/332/KSMCA/2025-26

DEPARTMENT OF MINORITY WELFARE
Directorate of Minorities
No.16C, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Bhavan, Miller Tank Bund Road, Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru - 52.
Website: https://minority.ksouportal.com https://dom.karnataka.gov.in
Muslim, Christian, Jain, Buddhist, Sikh, Parsi
CORRIGENDUM NOTIFICATION
Revised dates for online application for UG/PG and Certificate / Diploma Courses through Karnataka State Open University (KSOU) for Minority Students
Online Applications are available on the following websites:-
https://minority.ksouportal.com
Karnataka State Open University - KSOU
https://dom.karnataka.gov.in
(Directorate of Minorities – GoK)
Revised Last Date for Online Application:
10.08.2025
For further details, Instructions and procedures please visit Directorate of Minorities website https://dom.karnataka.gov.in or
Contact: 9900667916/ 9945366062/ 9113512565/ 9611418726/ 9900506659/ 9035395137
For assistance contact District Minority Office or nearest Minority Information Centres (MIC) or contact the Minority Welfare Department
Date: 04.08.2025
Place: Bengaluru
Sd/-
Director
DIPR/CP/2203/2025-26 Directorate of Minorities, Bengaluru

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

REMEMBRANCE



P.V. GOVINDA RAO
"A Complete man"
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FAMILY MEMBERS
VALASARAVAKKAM

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No: DGM-3/BSWML/PR /175/2025-26 Date: 04.08.2025
INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (Only through GOK KPP Portal Only)
Name of the Work: Engaging of Swachhta Knowledge Partners for conducting training need assessment, development of training modules and dissemination of training.
(1) Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited invites EOI from empanelled SKPs by MoHUA for the work of "Engaging of Swachhta Knowledge Partners for conducting training need assessment, development of training modules and dissemination of training" (2) This EOI is invited only for obtaining market rates to prepare the estimates (3) The details of the EOI can be downloaded from the Government of Karnataka Public Procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 07.08.2025** (4) Last date (deadline) to receive the response is : **21.08.2025 upto 4.00 PM** through KPPP portal (5) Date of opening of responses is **22.08.2025 after 4.30 PM** through KPPP portal (6) The Right to Accept/Reject an any or all responses received is reserved with the Deputy General Manager-3, BSWML without assigning any reasons thereof.
Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-3
BSWML, Bengaluru.
DIPR/CP/2205/SSC/2025-26

PUBLIC NOTICE
Our client intends to purchase and/or develop the property described in the Schedule hereunder from the owner/s. Any person/s, firms, societies, institutions (corporate or otherwise) claiming to have any right, title, interest, benefit, claim or demand in, or to, the Schedule Properties and/or any part thereof, by way of sale, agreement, exchange, gift, grant, lease, tenancy, license, assignment, mortgage, charge, lien, trust, family arrangement/ settlement, encumbrance, inheritance, bequest, easement, possession, maintenance, development rights, order / decree / judgment of any Court/Statutory Authority, agreement, understanding or otherwise howsoever, to the Schedule Properties is required to intimate the same in writing together with true copies of all documentary proof in support thereof, to the undersigned, at the address given below, **within Ten (10) days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, our client shall proceed ahead to purchase the Schedule Properties and no further claims in respect of the Schedule Properties would be considered any time thereafter.
SCHEDULE PROPERTIES
ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL land bearing Survey No. 18/1 measuring 02 Acres 36 Guntas including 02 Guntas of A Kharab of dry land, situated at Vaderahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District and bounded by :
East by : Land belonging to Poojappa
West by : Land belonging to Nanjundappa
North by : Land belonging to Veerabadrappa
South by : Govt. Land
ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL land bearing Survey No. 3/3 measuring 01 Acre 25 Guntas including 01 Gunta of A Kharab of dry land, situated at Vaderahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District and bounded by :
East by : Land bearing survey no.6;
West by : Land bearing block no. 2,3,4 & 5;
North by : Land bearing survey no.2;
South by : Bearing survey no.22.
Dated: 05.08.2025
FoxMandal
Mr. S. T. Prashantha Kumar, Senior Partner
Fox Mandal & Associates
"FM House" 6/12, Primrose Road
Bengaluru 560025. Ph:+91 80 2559 5911

District Urban Development Cell,
Vijayanagara District, Hospete-583201
No: DUDCV/Nagarothana(M)-4/Tender Notification/2025-26 Date: 02.08.2025
TENDER NOTIFICATION
The Executive Engineer, Vijayanagara District Invites tenders in two cover system using standard tender documents from **Eligible** contractors for **NAGAROTHANA (Municipality)-4 Project in CMC Hosapete, and TMC harapanahalli town limits of Vijayanagara District ULB** as below.
Name of Work: 01.Construction of UGD manhole chambers, providing and laying of ugd lines for missing links, household connection and restoration works at various locations in Hospete CMC Limits (DMA/2024-25/OW/ WORK_ INDENT 35098/Call-3). **Amount put to Tender (in Lakhs):** 694.83. **EMD (in Rs):** 1042245.00. **Last Date for Tender Submission:** 18.08.2025 Time16.30 Hr. **Tender Technical bid Opening Date:** 19.08.2025 Time 17.00 Hr
02.Construction of town municipal council office building in harpanhalli town under nagarothana phase-4 (DMA/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT45203. **Amount put to Tender (in Lakhs):** 252.97. **EMD (in Rs):** 3,79,500.00. **Last Date for Tender Submission:** 03.09.2025 Time16.30 Hr. **Tender Technical bid Opening Date:** 04.09.2025 Time 17.00 Hr
Interested Contractors shall register on the e-procurement platform to participate in this tender, Contractors can download the tender documents from the https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in platform. Tenders shall be submitted electronically & tender processing fee shall also be paid electronically.
DIPR/Vijayanagar/2025-26/ KSMCA/RO No/185
Sd/- Executive Engineer
District Urban Development cell Vijayanagara District

TAMIL NADU STATE AIDS CONTROL SOCIETY,
No. 417, Pantheon Road, Egmore, Chennai 600 008
Email tnsacs@gmail.com - Ph No. 044-2819 0467/28199089
Call for Expression of Interest from Chartered Accountant Firms
Expressions of Interest (EOI) are invited from CAG empanelled Chartered Accountant firms and firms of Cost Accountants for conducting Internal Audit.
1) The Statutory Audit of Tamil Nadu State AIDS Control Society, Chennai
2) The Internal Audit of Peripheral Units (DAPCU's, NGO's, Medical Colleges Hospitals, Government Hospitals) implementing programmes of TANSACS
for a financial year 2025-26, engagement initially for one year and can be extended on an annual basis for a maximum of 3 years.
Submission of forms upto: 22.08.2025 upto 5.00 pm by Registered Post / Courier
Note: Quote (1) & (2) Separate cover with mark (1) & (2)/ EOI (s) sent by TELEFAX / EMAIL will not be entertained.
For forms and more information please see web site: **www.tnsacs.in**
Project Director
Member Secretary
DIPR/879/Display/2025

Plaint against Adoor over remarks on aid for SC/ST filmmakers

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Adoor Gopalakrishnan

Filmmaker Adoor Gopalakrishnan's controversial statements at the Kerala Film Policy Conclave on the Kerala government's project to promote filmmakers from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (SC/STs) and women filmmakers kicked up a storm on Monday with Ministers, Dalit activists, and filmmakers criticising him for his stand.

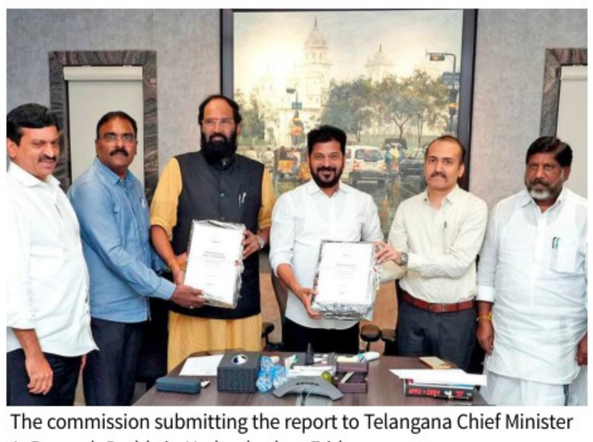
Mr. Gopalakrishnan had said the project under which ₹1.5 crore is provided to aspiring women filmmakers and those from the SC/STs would pave way for corruption. They should be given at least three months of intensive training to make films, he had said, calling for a reduction in the amount to ₹50 lakh.

Dalit activist Dinu Veyil filed a complaint under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act with the Museum police here and the State SC/ST Commission against the filmmaker. Meanwhile, Mr. Gopalakrishnan said he was "not against providing financial assistance to anyone, but the beneficiaries should be provided adequate training before the disbursal of funds."

Telangana Cabinet examines Kaleshwaram probe report

Ex-CM's involvement is a cause of irregularities and issues with the Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages, says the one-man commission's report; project lacked Cabinet consent, it adds

Rajeev M.
HYDERABAD


The commission submitting the report to Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy in Hyderabad on Friday. ANI

The Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose Commission has said the former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao was "directly and vicariously" accountable for the irregularities and the illegalities in the planning, construction, completion, operation and maintenance of the three barrages at Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla forming part of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP).

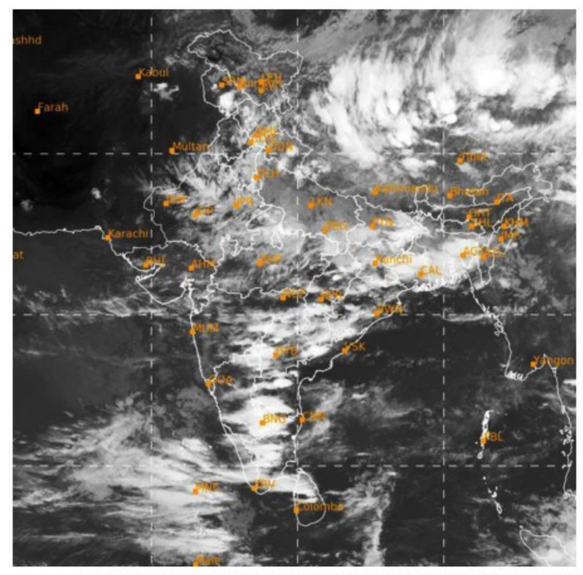
"His involvement and directions minutely... is the cause and result of irregularities and the cause of distress to these three barrages," the commission said in its 665-page report which was examined by the State Council of Ministers on Monday.

The commission said it could be categorically held that there was rank irregularity from the stage of conceptualisation of the project till the issuance of administrative approvals on March 1, 2016 for construction of the three barrages. Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy explained the highlights of the report. He recalled how Mr. Chandrashekhar Rao claimed in the Assembly that a team of retired engineers was constituted to study the project. But, the report which recommended against construction of the project at Medigadda and other sites had been deliberately suppressed by him and other officials. Moreover, the construction did not receive the consent of the Cabinet.

"Mr. Chandrashekhar has mortgaged the people of Telangana borrowing high interest, low tenure funds from non banking financial institutions," Mr. Uttam Kumar said.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.45 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Sikkim, West Bengal, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala, Mahe and Lakshadweep

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	31	32.6	25.4	Kozhikode	14	31.5	24.2
Ahmedabad	—	34.3	26.6	Kurnool	20	34.6	24.2
Aizawl	—	29.0	20.6	Lucknow	91	27.5	24.4
Allahabad	50	27.4	24.5	Madurai	—	38.0	26.6
Bengaluru	0.1	29.2	20.2	Mangaluru	15	29.8	23.5
Bhopal	—	31.0	24.2	Mumbai	0.5	31.5	26.5
Bhubaneswar	—	34.0	27.1	Mysuru	—	29.0	21.0
Chandigarh	—	33.8	25.9	New Delhi	—	33.4	27.2
Chennai	—	36.2	26.5	Patna	35	28.4	25.0
Coimbatore	—	31.6	22.0	Port Blair	2	31.6	25.1
Dehradun	79	25.1	23.6	Puducherry	—	32.9	22.0
Gangtok	17	21.7	18.0	Pune	—	31.8	23.0
Goa	0.5	31.4	25.0	Raipur	—	34.2	27.2
Guwahati	10	32.1	26.2	Ranchi	3	30.2	22.9
Hubballi	—	29.0	23.0	Shillong	24	24.0	18.3
Hyderabad	0.1	33.0	23.9	Shimla	23	22.6	16.8
Imphal	0.6	28.7	23.8	Srinagar	—	33.2	19.6
Jaipur	—	32.3	25.8	Thiruvananthapuram	9	30.9	22.8
Kochi	8	29.0	23.8	Tiruchi	—	37.5	25.4
Kohima	2	23.5	19.3	Vijayawada	—	36.5	26.4
Kolkata	16	33.0	25.8	Visakhapatnam	—	34.4	28.7

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO₂	NO₂	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.39	..26	45	 36	54	.....
Bengaluru	...6	..21	55	 29	64	.....
Chennai	.15	..17	61	 17	50	.....
Delhi	.19	..30	67	... 138	...102	.....
Hyderabad	.38	..26	48	... 105	99	.....
Kolkata	...3	..49	18	 65	66	.....
Lucknow	...8	..36	57	 24	40	.....
Mumbai	.22	..11	15	 61	71	.....
Pune	..—	..28	72	 35	90	.....
Visakhapatnam	.11	..24	14	 64	89	.....

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 221 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Madikeri, Karnataka recorded a healthy AQI score of 20

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO₂: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO₂: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Experts to discuss investment potential of Kovaipudur on August 7

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

The second panel discussion in the "Coimbatore Unlimited 3.0" series will be held in Kochi on August 7. It will cover sectors with investment potential at Kovaipudur in Coimbatore. The event, presented by G Square and powered by The Hindu Group, on "Reimagining Growth in Coimbatore and Beyond" will focus on "Coimbatore's Kovaipudur: A Promising Investment Destination". Coimbatore has emerged as a significant location, shaping the next wave of urban transformation and future-ready investments. With its unique blend of industrial legacy, emerging innovation hubs in the technology space, and a growing appetite for lifestyle-driven infrastructure, it is fast becoming a model for long-term value creation. Kovaipudur is an area of huge potential for investment in Coimbatore with the presence of educational institutions and upcoming infrastructure projects. The scope for growth is presented by multiple sectors – retail, commercial, hospitality, logistics, healthcare, and so on. Located on the Coimbatore-Kerala road, Kovaipudur is all set to see massive development in the coming days.

The first panel discussion was held on the topic of "Coimbatore in Focus - The Smart Investment Corridor" in Chennai on July 31.

The speakers will be Junaith Babu, chief operating officer, G Square Group; Raaghav, chief executive officer of A PLUS R Architects and an urban planning expert, government consultant and master planner; Balakrishna, consulting director, PBK Business Consulting, Coimbatore; and Sujatha N.A., marketing manager of Brookefields.

The discussion will be moderated by K. Pradeep, former senior deputy editor of *The Hindu*.

The event will be held at Vivanta Ernakulam, Kochi, from 6.30 p.m. Entry is by invitation only. For registration, log on to newsth.live/GUNLCB2025 or scan the QR code.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, MPED-C, Annex-2 Building, Ground Floor, BBMP Head Office Premises, NR Square, Bengaluru-560002

No. BBMP/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT6166/CALL-2 Date : 04-08-2025

SECTION 1 : INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Short Term Tender Notification - Two Cover System)
(Through GOK KPP Portal Only)

The Executive Engineer, MPED-C, invites tenders on behalf of the Hon'ble Chief Commissioner, BBMP, Bengaluru from eligible Tenderers for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl.	Name of the Work
1	Renovation works to Kalpalli Electrical Crematorium at Hindu Burial Ground in Ward No. 79. **Approximate Amount put to tender (Excluding GST) :** Rs. 84,69,786/- **EMD :** Rs. 1,70,000/-

Calendar of events : (1) Tender documents downloaded from the KPP Portal of the Government of Karnataka **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** from **05-08-2025. (2)** Last Date for uploading the Filled Proposals : **18-08-2025 17:30 hrs. (3)** Opening of Proposals : **19-08-2025 at 17:30 hrs.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, MPED-C

RAJIV GANDHI UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, KARNATAKA
4th 'T' Block, Jayanagara, Bengaluru – 560 041, Ph No.080-26961928

No:RGUHSB/PROC/GEN/5/2024 Date: 04.08.2025

E-TENDER NOTIFICATION (RFP)

The Registrar, Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences invites tender for Supply of Blank Marks Card and Degree Certificate with QR Code of RGUHS. More details on the services are provided in the attached Terms of Reference.

(Tender No: RGUHSK/2025-26/IND0019)

Tender document available for downloaded	**02/08/2025 17:29 Hrs**
Pre Bid meeting	**13/08/2025 11:30 Hrs**
Last date for receipt of Tender	**02/09/2025 17:29 Hrs**
Date of Sample Submission	**02/09/2025 17:30 Hrs**
Opening of Technical Bid	**04/09/2025 11:30 Hrs**
Place of Opening of Tender	Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Bengaluru

More details can be fetched from website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

DIPR/SI/2180/2025-26 **Sd/- REGISTRAR**

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Executive Engineer, MPED-C, Annex-2 Building, Ground Floor, BBMP Head office Premises, NR Square, Bangalore-560002.

No. BBMP/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT6166/CALL-2 Date: 04.08.2025

SECTION 1: INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) (TWO COVER SYSTEM) SHORT TERM TENDER

(Through GOK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)

The Executive Engineer, MPED-C, invites tenders BBMP, Bengaluru from eligible Tenderers for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1.	Renovation works to Kalpalli Electrical Crematorium at Hindu Burial ground in ward No.79 **Approx. Amount put to tender (Excluding GST) : Rs. 84 ,69,786/-, EMD : Rs.1,70,000/-.**

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the kpp portal of the Government of Karnataka from **05.08.2025 (2)** Tenders must be submitted online through kpp portal on or before **17.30 hours on 18.08.2025** and the opening of tenders will be as per the kpp portal guidelines. **(3)** Availability of Tender Document: **05.08.2025 onwards. (4)** Last Date for uploading the Filled Proposals: **18.08.2025 17:30 hrs (5)** Opening of Proposals: **19.08.2025 at 17:30 hrs.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, MPED-C

MANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
O&M Zone, Shakthi Soudha, Bondel, Mangalore-575 015
Tel: 0824-2425153/2425888, CIN: U40109 KA 2002 SGC 030425

NO: CEE/MZ/SEE(O)/EE(C)/25-26/4092-4104 DATE: 24.07.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (IInd call)

MESCOM invites tenders for 3 Civil Engineering works (Second Call) through KPPP portal from registered KPWD Contractors with EPF, ESI & GST registration in accordance with KTPP Act. For details contractors can access through KPPP website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **06.08.2025** further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer (Ele), O&M Zone, MESCOM, Mangaluru

DIPR / MNG / 580/ MPL / 25-26

For Power Related Complaints and Assistance Call Toll Free Number 1912

Government of Karnataka
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE
Indira Gandhi Centre for Career Development,
Dr. Babu Jagajeevan Ram Research Centre, Outer Ring Road, Summanahalli Circle, Magadi Main Road, Bangalore-560091.
Ph.No.080-25578422

No: SWD/IGCCD/OS-04/PSI/2025-26 Date: 04.08.2025

Notification of Tender (Through e-tendering only)

Indira Gandhi Centre for Career Development under the preview of the Social Welfare Department is inviting a 30 days tender from reputed & prestigious training institutions through E-Procurement portal, to provide 90 days of residential pre-recruitment training & pre-examination coaching to Scheduled Cast candidates who wish to take up the pre-recruitment examination for entry into the **Police Sub-Inspector services** for both men and women. The training will be conducted across two zones of Karnataka (Northern Zone-Kalaburagi and Belagavi) and (Southern Zone-Bengaluru and Mysore) for the year 2025-26.

Tender Notification is given below: 1.**No.SWD/2025-26/SE0207**(for female candidates) 2.**No:SWD/2025-26/SE0206** (for male candidates) For more details please visit **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Director
Indira Gandhi Centre for Career Development (IGCCD) Social Welfare Department, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/2201/SSC/2025-26

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of the Chief Commissioner, Annex Building-1, N.R. Square, Bangalore-560002.

No: BBMP/C.Comm/PSR(G)/1090/2025-26 FORM – III (See Sub-rule (3) of rule-3) Date: 01.08.2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

In exercise of powers conferred under section **14-B of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act,1961** the following 'Area' mentioned in the schedule below is required by the Chief Commissioner, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike for **Widening of Kogilu-Sampigehalli Road from Kogilu Circle to Shivarama Karanth Layout via Agrahara Sampigehalli (Ch:0.00m to Ch:3630.00m).**

The following land / building owners have opted for Development Rights in lieu of monetary compensation under the Right to Fair Compensation and transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. The Development Rights will be given by the Authority as twice the land area surrendered and two times the building area surrendered and as estimated by the value of the building area surrendered (valuated as per PWD norms) divided by the market value of the land on which the building is constructed.

The public is hereby informed about the details of the land and land owners and interested persons whose lands are required for the public purpose and Development Right Certificate (DRCs) are to be issued in lieu of monetary compensation. Any objections and suggestions are to be addressed to the Special Land Acquisition officer, O/o the Deputy Commissioner (Land Acquisition and TDR) Head Office, BBMP within thirty days from the date of publication of this Notification.

List of land / building area surrendered and land owners for which DRC is to be issued.

Name of the District : **Bengaluru Urban** Name of the Taluk **: Yelahanka** Name of the Village **: Agrahara**

Sy. No / Khatha no.	Type of land: Vacant	Type of land: Built up	Nature of Land: Agriculture Converted Undeveloped Approved layout / developed land Building Site	Dimension of the land / plot and extent in Sq.m: Dimension Extent	Boundaries of the land / plot: North	South	East	West	Building details: Extent in Sq.m	Type of Construction and No. of floors	Floor Area Ratio	Present activity on land/ Building (Specify Specific activity such as shop, office, factory, apartment, Individual house etc.,	Market (guidelines) value of the land per Sq.m	Name and address of the owner of the plot/ land for which DRC is to be issued
Khatha No.45/40, E.P.I.D No.6889007745	Vacant land		Gramatana	154.08 + 10.86 (Land) + (Building) = 164.94	Private Property	Private Property	Remaining Portion of Khatha No.45/40	Road	23.04	RCC	1.75	Shop	33,000/-	Smt.N.D Leelavathi W/o D.A Gowda Residing at No.373, 16th Cross, 2nd Main Agrahara Layout, Yelahanka, Bangalore-560064.

Note:
- Market guideline value of this property is considered subject to conditions of payment of fee as per Government Order No. NAE 137. MNU 2024 (E), Dated: 09.09.2024 and as per the Circular No. Commissioner/P.S.R/G/1802/2024-25, Dated: 21.09.2024,
- Objections and suggestions made be submitted at the address specified below:

Name and address of the Divisional / Sub divisional / branch office	Deputy Commissioner, Land Acquisition & TDR, 2nd Floor, Room No: 208, Annex Building-3, N.R. Square, BBMP, Bangalore-560002.

Sd/- Chief Commissioner
Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

PUBLIC NOTICE

Under instructions from our clients, General Public is hereby notified that our client intends to purchase land bearing Survey No. 18/1 measuring 02 Acres 36 Guntas including 02 Guntas of A Kharab of dry land, situated at Vaderahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District from Mr. M. Chikkamunniyappa s/o Late. Marappa.

The owner of the above said property Mr. M. Chikkamunniyappa s/o Late. Marappa have represented that the (1) Original Sale Deed dated 18.04.1957 registered as document no. 117/1957-58 of book – I in the office of Sub – Registrar of Devanahalli taluk and (2) Sale Deed dated 27.01.1955, registered as document no. 1980/1955-56 of book – I in the Sub Registrar office of Devanahalli taluk with respect to the above said Property is lost/not traceable. They have lodged First Information Report (FIR) with Bangalore Rural Police on 29.07.2025. The finder of the Sale Deed is requested to return the same to the below mentioned address. The Public are hereby warned that any transaction whatsoever with any one with respect to the said Property other than the Owner mentioned above will be invalid and would be doing so at his/their own risk and does not bind the Owner. No other person than the above owner has any right, title or interest or charge or claim of any nature in relation to the said Property.

Mr. S. T. Prashantha Kumar,
Senior Partner
Fox Mandal & Associates
"FM House" 6/12, Primrose Road
Bengaluru 560 025. Ph: +91 80 2559 5911

Government of Karnataka
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Bagalkot
Tel Phone.: 08354- 235042 E-mail ID: bgkeezpe@yahoo.com Fax: 08354-235043

No: EE/PRED/BGK/PB-1/5054/Tender/2025-26/1731 Date:31.07.2025

SHORT TENDER NOTIFICATION (Two Cover System) (KW-3& 4 Bid Document)

Tender Called for the Work in the above notification through E-mode tendering is read as below.

Item rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement ACT 1999 and Rules 2000 STANDARD BID DOCUMENT KW-4 through Public electronic Tendering System **(E-Tender from Class-1,2,3 contractor (Civil) registered in KPWD,** Who have got adequate financial resources, State of Technology, Suitable Construction equipments technical man Power & Sufficient past Experience for the following Work as per Schedule Given Below.

Tender Called for ಸನ್ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗದ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆಯಡಿ ಮಂಜೂರಾದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಮುಧೋಳ, ಹುನಗುಂದ ಹಾಗೂ ಜಮಖಂಡಿ ಉಪವಿಭಾಗ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ

Scheme Under Work Indent No:

ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ: **RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT17347,**
RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT17346 RDPR/2025-26/RD/ WORK_INDENT14717/CALL-2
RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT17514 RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT17486
RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT17048 RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT17049
ಪ್ರವರ್ಗ–2 (ಎ) ವರ್ಗದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಯ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:
RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT14737/CALL-2 RDPR/2025-26/BR/WORK_INDENT17031
ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಂಗಡ ವರ್ಗದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆಯ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: **RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT15085/Call-2**

ಇದ್ದು, ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ, ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ, ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಅರ್ಹತೆ ವಿವರ, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತ (**ರೂ.70.00 ದಿಂದ 150.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳ** ಮಿತಿಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟು), ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅರ್ಜಿಯ ಬೆಲೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ಎಲ್ಲ ವಿವರಗಳು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಇದ್ದಂತೆ.

read as below.

Calendar of event

1	Request of blank Tender Documents and receipt of Completed Technical & Financial Bid through e-procurement	**Date:31.07.2025 to 16.08.2025 at 5.30pm**
2	Pre-Bid meeting Date	**Date:12.08.2025 at 11.00am**
3	Opening of Technical Bid Date	**Date:19.08.2025 at 11.00 am**
4	Opening of Financial Bid Date	**Technical Bid Approved.**

Note:-More details can be obtained through website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in or contact the below signed Office during the office hours. Phone no: 08354-235042

DIPR/Bgk/197/DeshpandePublicity/2025-26 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division, Bagalkote**

A crisis of trust

The ECI must be more transparent and impartial in its actions

The credibility of an electoral system, or democracy in general, is dependent solely on it being seen as fair by all, particularly so by the loser. This is comparable to a judicial dispute or a sporting event on this count. If the losers think they lost only because the process was rigged against them, a crisis of trust develops. The serious charges being raised against the Election Commission of India (ECI) by the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, has to be seen in this context. He says that he has plans to disclose more information regarding discrepancies in the 2024 general election. One must wait for the details of those allegations before making any comments on their merits. The ECI has come under attack by politicians earlier too. Narendra Modi, when he was the Chief Minister of Gujarat, had repeatedly questioned the impartiality of the ECI. Many of these charges against the ECI are rhetorical attempts by political parties or leaders to animate supporters. In Bihar, the Leader of Opposition in the State Assembly, Tejashwi Yadav, has alleged his name did not exist on the draft electoral roll which is being revised by the ECI. As it turns out the Elector's Photo Identity Card (EPIC) number that he thought was his is different from the one in the ECI records, raising a new controversy. Politicians should be raising questions about the electoral process only when there are strong grounds for doing so. Trust in the electoral system is foundational to representative democracy.

That said, the ECI's recent statements and actions, far from buttressing public trust and enhancing transparency in the process, raise more questions. Its efficiency and its neutrality are on test in the preparation of rolls, scheduling of elections, enforcement of the code of conduct, counting process, and the redress of complaints. The ECI stands charged on each of these counts. Other than protesting that the electronic voting machines (EVM) are beyond tampering, and that political parties should raise objections regarding rolls at the appropriate time, the ECI has refused to come clean on multiple issues. It has not been transparent about the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) machine which is one of the three parts that make an Electronic Voting Machine. Unlike the other two parts – the Ballot Unit and the Control Unit – the VVPAT has software that is centrally installed and it is connected to the control unit. The random tallying of the VVPAT with the electronically cast votes is now an extremely arbitrary process. All political parties do not have the equal capacity to monitor the various stages of the electoral process. At any rate, the election process is not a matter of negotiation between parties and the ECI. Political parties have a role to play, but the real question is to ensure that the citizenry at large is reassured of the integrity of the electoral process. The ECI needs to correct its course to ensure that.

Fascinating finale

Neither India nor England deserved to lose this hard-fought series

India's long cricketing tour of England concluded in a gripping stalemate. A 2-2 verdict, following Shubman Gill's men snatching a six-run triumph against the host at the Oval on Monday, was an apt reflection of a well-contested Test series that featured five matches. Australia has been conquered a few times in its backyard, but for India, England at home remains a tough opponent. Only thrice has India seized a Test series under the whimsical English skies, with the last series victory coming in 2007. The odds were stacked high too as this was a visiting unit that had lost Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and R. Ashwin to retirements. Gill's men, however, fought hard. In an age in which there are whispers about implementing four-day Tests, this series was a reflection of all that is good with cricket's traditional format as every contest spilled onto the fifth day. England's Bazball style did upset India's best laid plans at times and yet the bowlers found ways to strike back. England was led well by the rousing manner of all-rounder Ben Stokes till he skipped the last Test due to injury. And in Joe Root, England has a batter for the ages, and if he stays fit, Sachin Tendulkar's record Test aggregate of 15,921 runs may not remain immune.

In the distant past, a tour of England featured additional warm-up games against the Counties. The length of the tour helped players rest and regain form. Modern-day players have no such luxuries as a cramped year-long schedule that packs in T20s such as the Indian Premier League, means that every overseas trip becomes a rushed affair. That Jasprit Bumrah could only play three Tests and even Stokes had to skip one at the end, is a reflection of how cricketers have no time to pause and remain injury prone. Seen in that light, Mohammed Siraj turning out for five Tests and bowling with verve and skill, is a huge testament of his fitness. India has much to cherish as Gill amassed 754 runs, and K.L. Rahul and Yashasvi Jaiswal excelled with the bat. Meanwhile, Ravindra Jadeja and Washington Sundar offered depth in the batting order, even if the tail below wilted. The injury to Rishabh Pant was unfortunate but he is bound to return in a while. India missed Mohammed Shami and much hinged on the fiery Siraj, who with 23 wickets, stepped up even as his fellow seamers lost their radar at times. A team in transition is bound to have teething issues. However, through their rugged fight, these players offer hope for better days ahead.

Bangladesh, a year after Sheikh Hasina's ouster

Veena Sikri

is a former High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh

Bangladesh today is abysmally different from the trajectory promised to the people by Professor Muhammad Yunus when he was sworn in (August 8, 2024) as Chief Adviser of the Interim Government. Many myths have been shattered.

The first myth that has unravelled is that Sheikh Hasina's ouster was the result of a "spontaneous students' uprising". It is now accepted that the 'meticulously designed' regime change operation was the handiwork of the Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI), the radical Islamist political party that fought against the creation of Bangladesh in 1971. In 2024, as in 1971, the JeI was strongly supported by Pakistan, backed by key external powers including the United States and China. The JeI is the power behind the Chief Adviser, controlling every decision.

The second myth concerns the legitimacy and constitutional validity of the Yunus-led regime. On August 8, 2024 they took the oath of allegiance to the Constitution of Bangladesh. However, this Constitution has no provision for an interim government. Even though the Bangladesh High Court (on December 17, 2024) restored the system of caretaker government, the Yunus-led Interim Government cannot be considered a caretaker government. The Yunus regime has violated the mandated neutrality and non-party requirements of the caretaker government. Members of the Hizb-ut Tahrir, Islami Andolan Bangladesh, and Hefazat-e-Islam have been included as advisers in his regime. In a tweet (now deleted), one of the advisers expressed their desire to establish a caliphate in Bangladesh based on Sharia law, and even spoke about a civil war to achieve this goal. The strongly Islamist ideological leanings and objectives of those who hold the reins of power in Bangladesh have alienated them from the people.

An election delaying tactic

The third myth relates to the raison d'etre of any interim government. Its mandate can only be to ensure that free, fair and inclusive elections are organised within the specified 90-day period, with the participation of all registered political parties. An interim regime is not authorised to take any major decisions, especially those with constitutional significance or implications. Such decisions can be taken only by an elected parliament.

Instead of preparing for elections, the Yunus-led interim regime has initiated a reform process, insisting that this must be completed before the elections. It has set up reform commissions for the Constitution, for electoral reforms, and for police reforms, among others. The JeI is the key protagonist of these reforms, which it hopes will boost its vote share far above the meagre 5% to 10% it has been receiving. This so-called reform process is merely an excuse to delay the elections, a step strongly opposed by the Army and by major political parties such as the Bangladesh Nationalist Party which are insisting that elections be held by December 2025. This issue is now rapidly coming to a head, and election dates may be announced very soon.

Public opinion appears to have turned against the Yunus interim regime — with growing economic distress, the shared refrain seems to be a yearning for the 'earlier and better times'

Led by the JeI, the interim regime is unleashing unspeakable violence on the people. Prime targets are the non-Muslim minorities (Hindus, Christians, Buddhists) as well as Muslim religious minorities (Sufis and Ahmadiyyas). Equally vicious has been the violence unleashed against Awami League members and their supporters. Every statue, every building, every institution associated with the Liberation War of 1971 has been destroyed.

Over the months, as this violence has continued unabated, with varying degrees of ferocity, a huge backlash has built up among the people. Awami Leaguers have been jailed in large numbers or just brutally slaughtered. In May 2025, all Awami League activities were banned. While Sheikh Hasina is being tried on charges of ordering attacks on students (during the unrest of July-August 2024), there is deliberate amnesia about the burning and looting (by the mobs) of 400 police *thanas* across Bangladesh, followed by the killing of policemen in the hundreds, even thousands, using these looted weapons. The decision by the interim regime to indemnify itself and all "the students and people who actively took part in the mass uprising of July-August" against harassment or arrest has been sharply criticised within and outside Bangladesh.

A party, its disconnect

The 'students' party, the National Citizen Party (NCP), formed in February 2025, is dubbed the King's Party, owing direct allegiance to Mr. Yunus. So far, the party has no legal status since it is not registered with the Election Commission. At first it included erstwhile members or sympathisers of the Islami Chhatra Shibir (students' wing of the JeI) and claims 'it was established to fight for the rights of the student community'. Yet, it has little or no following among university students. On July 16, 2025, NCP leaders held a rally in Gopalgunj, the hometown of the Father of the Nation, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, with the reported intention of desecrating his mausoleum in Tungipara.

The NCP was strongly resisted by the local people, staunch supporters of the Awami League. The Bangladesh Army is said to have supported the NCP by firing on unarmed civilians, resulting in the loss of several lives. The Gopalgunj incident has caused a furore, with dissatisfaction against the NCP and the Interim regime reaching new highs. A complaint has now been filed with the United Nations, describing this as a genocidal attack on the people of Bangladesh.

Important institutions of state such as the judiciary, the central bank and even the media have been compromised. In August 2024, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and the Governor of the Bangladesh Bank were surrounded by mobs and forced to resign. This pattern of mobocracy soon became the norm. Strict media control has been ensured by peremptorily taking over media houses. Journalists have been imprisoned since the early days of the interim regime, many on charges of murder. Many have lost their jobs, and face penury. This massive clampdown on an otherwise vibrant and comparatively free media has allowed the interim regime to peddle its own version of events to the global media.

Economic distress, a patient India

However, it is difficult to hide the overwhelming economic distress being faced by the people. Growth rates have halved from the robust 6% and more per annum, that was the norm under Sheikh Hasina. Factories have shut down due to poor supply chain management, resulting in joblessness and hyper-inflation. In July 2025, Bangladesh Bank highlighted continuing macroeconomic challenges due to "persistent inflation, uncertainties associated with the forthcoming elections, slowing economic growth and stagnant private investment".

The economic distress is, in many ways, the direct result of the foreign policy goals set by the Yunus regime. As can be expected, the JeI is not averse to the moniker, 'client state of Pakistan', that is increasingly used for Bangladesh. The events of July-August 2024 were preceded and accompanied by vicious anti-India propaganda. Harsh criticism of Sheikh Hasina as a 'fascist dictator' was invariably followed by blaming India for the state of affairs in Bangladesh. The mutually beneficial trade and economic partnership between these two neighbouring countries was criticised as being one-sided and unfair.

One year of this unrelenting barrage has now boomeranged on the Yunus regime. Public opinion has turned against it because, except for words, it has provided no succour to the people of Bangladesh. Across the nation, the shared refrain openly describes the 'earlier times' as 'being better', including the benefits to Bangladesh of their strong economic, trade and investment links with India.

India has shown a lot of patience in dealing with the interim regime. In August 2024, India had conveyed its willingness to continue with and build upon its links with Bangladesh. In April 2025, during the bilateral meeting with Mr. Yunus, Prime Minister Narendra Modi reiterated India's support for a democratic, stable, peaceful, progressive and inclusive Bangladesh, enunciating India's people-centric approach to the relationship. Unfortunately, the hand of friendship was rebuffed. Now, a new grouping of China, Pakistan and Bangladesh is sought to be created. Bangladesh must have early free, fair and inclusive elections under a new caretaker government. India is confident that the new elected government, one that truly reflects the wishes of the people of Bangladesh, will work to re-establish a cordial and mutually beneficial relationship with India.

The missing link in India's battery waste management

Arun Goyal

is a retired IAS officer. He is a former Secretary to the Government of India and a former Member of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission

India, with its focus on decarbonisation, has witnessed rapid electrification, particularly in the realm of electric vehicle (EV) adoption. There are projections that India's EV lithium battery demand may skyrocket to nearly 139 gigawatt-hours (GWh) by 2035 from 4 GWh in 2023. India's expanding renewable energy sector is also catalysing demand for lithium batteries, with rapid adoption of battery energy storage systems (BESS) to meet India's Net Zero goal by 2070. While the growth in EV adoption is desirable, it may impose environmental costs without a robust recycling framework in place. Improper disposal of lithium batteries has severe repercussions, including leakage of hazardous materials into soil and water. Added to this is the growing volume of battery waste, with lithium batteries alone accounting for 7,00,000 of the 1.6 million metric tonnes of e-waste generated in 2022. Recognising these risks, the government notified the Battery Waste Management Rules (BWMR) in 2022 to ensure sustainable management and recycling.

The first problem is the floor price

A cornerstone of the rules is the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), which compels producers to fund battery collection and recycling, and aims to close the loop in the battery value chain. Producers rely on recyclers to meet their recycling targets since they do not possess the logistics and the infrastructure for the collection of battery waste. In practice, recyclers must receive a minimum price, known as the EPR floor price, in exchange for EPR certificates that attest that producers have met their recycling obligations. The EPR floor price ensures that recyclers are adequately compensated for their upfront investment in infrastructure, research and development, labour, technology and recycling methods.

Unfortunately, there are certain hurdles, the first being the EPR floor price being too low to sustain the robust recycling of battery waste generated by producers. Proper disposal of lithium battery waste is expensive, requiring advanced processing technologies, safe transportation, and skilled labour to prevent hazardous materials from leaching into ecosystems.

As the first step, it is essential that India ensures the adoption of fair Extended Producer Responsibility floor pricing

Lithium-ion batteries also have valuable and rare minerals such as cobalt, lithium and nickel, whose efficient recovery can significantly reduce India's import dependence. In case, the EPR floor price does not adequately cover proper recycling costs, it becomes economically unviable for legitimate recyclers to operate sustainably. As a result, informal and fraudulent recyclers tend to flourish, creating market distortions and perverse incentives for producers. They often issue false recycling certificates or dump hazardous waste – a failure previously witnessed in India's plastic waste management sector. If left unchecked, such practices may undermine India's circular economy ambitions. Without fair EPR floor pricing, India faces severe environmental degradation from improper battery recycling or dumping. The financial repercussions are equally alarming. Experts estimate that by 2030, inadequate battery recycling could cost India over $1 billion in foreign exchange losses.

A resistance to compliance

Large consumer electronics and manufacturers have further complicated the issue by resisting compliance. Large producers' policies are different for developed and developing countries, allowing corporations to circumvent environmental responsibilities in developing markets. This trend risks undermining the establishment of resilient and sustainable battery ecosystems across the global south.

Interestingly, adjusting the EPR floor price should not increase costs for consumers. While global metal prices have declined over the past two years, manufacturers have not passed on these savings to consumers, indicating that Original Equipment Manufacturers can absorb higher recycling costs without raising prices. A fair EPR floor price will ensure sustainable recycling without burdening end users, while fostering a circular economy that benefits industry and consumers.

To protect legitimate recyclers and encourage compliance, India must consider adopting a fair and globally comparable EPR floor price that reflects the real costs of recycling and industry building, and which can ease to market-driven prices when the ecosystem is mature and standardisation is in place. This requires immediate constructive dialogue among policymakers, industry and recyclers to establish a viable pricing structure after analysing global pricing structures and best practices. For instance, the United Kingdom requires producers to pay close to ₹600 per kilogram for EV battery recycling, whereas what is under consideration for India is less than a fourth of that. This is a significant difference even after adjusting for purchasing power between India and the U.K. The EPR floor price for recycling battery waste should cover the full spectrum of recycling expenses, from collection to material recovery, ensuring that recyclers can operate sustainably without resorting to shortcuts. A fair EPR regime will also incentivise battery producers to hold recyclers accountable through audits.

Integrate informal recyclers

Enforcement mechanisms need urgent strengthening in India. This includes implementing robust audit systems, digitising the issuance and the tracking of EPR certificates, and imposing stringent penalties for fraud and non-compliance. Additionally, integrating informal recyclers into the formal sector through training and regulatory support can help eliminate hazardous practices while expanding India's recycling capacity. This is not just an environmental challenge. It is an economic and strategic imperative. By recalibrating the EPR floor price, strengthening enforcement, and formalising the informal sector, we can transform battery waste from a looming crisis into a catalyst for green growth and a truly circular economy.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Voter ID card issue

The Leader of the Opposition in Bihar, Tejashwi Yadav, ought to have verified his previous records as far as his voter ID is concerned. There seems to have been a 'mixup of sorts'. Therefore, he would have to cooperate with the Election Commission of India (ECI). As far as the revision of electoral rolls in Bihar is concerned, is the entire bloc of Opposition parties agitated over the potential loss of vote banks after the intensive revision of electoral rolls?

Govardhana Myneedu,
Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh

Pulling off a win

The Indian cricket team has pulled off an incredible victory over experienced opponent England at the Oval.

The energetic Indian team deserves fulsome credit. The team's success was also made possible due to sedulous care of the coach.

K. Chellappan,
Seattle, U.S.

Cynicism about the survival and the future of five-day Tests is baseless. The road ahead for this old and original format of cricket is as safe and bright as its new and modern versions.

M.V. Nagavender Rao,
Hyderabad

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

India's pandemic toll remains elusive

The Civil Registration System (CRS) data has brought into sharp relief the magnitude of excess mortality that India witnessed during the COVID-19 pandemic years. Excess mortality refers to the difference between the total number of deaths during a pandemic or any other natural disaster compared to the number of deaths that would have been expected under normal conditions. According to the CRS, India recorded 76.4 lakh deaths in 2019. This figure rose to 81.11 lakh in 2020 and further surged to 1.02 crore in 2021 – an implicit acknowledgement of the fact that the true mortality impact of COVID-19 far exceeds the official toll of 5.33 lakh.

Data from the Medical Certification of Cause of Death (MCCD) for 2021, released alongside the CRS and Sample Registration System reports, adds further weight to this claim. COVID-19 was identified as the second leading cause of death, with 5.74 lakh certified fatalities attributed to the virus – already exceeding the official figure. However, this estimate was drawn from less than a quarter (23.4%) of registered deaths in 2021. Taken together, the rise in all-cause mortality and the limited scope of medical certification offer a compelling case that India's true pandemic death toll may be far closer to the World Health Organization's estimate of 47 lakh deaths – a model that the Government of India had earlier rejected, citing concerns over its methodological robustness.

Shilka Abraham

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Even comprehensive datasets such as CRS may fall short in reflecting the full impact of the pandemic

A systemic deficiency

CRS data/all-cause mortality data is indispensable, especially given the widespread undercounting of COVID-related deaths. This metric captures not only confirmed cases but also fatalities arising from misdiagnoses, misclassification, and pandemic-induced systemic disruptions. Nonetheless, the utility of the all-cause mortality data in gauging the true impact of COVID-19 is limited in the Indian setting, as the recording of deaths is far from universal. The National Family Health Survey-5 states that nearly 29% of deaths between 2016 and 2020 went unregistered. The omission of civil registration from the list of essential services during the 2020 lockdown further obscured the mortality landscape. As a consequence, even comprehensive datasets such as CRS may fall short in reflecting the full impact of the pandemic.

Beyond numerical discrepancies lies a deeper issue – the structural inadequacy of death certification and classification. During the pandemic years, we visited crematoriums and burial grounds in a locality in Kerala. We observed a marked rise in the number of daily cremations compared to previous years – an increase that was evident not only in facilities designated for handling COVID-19 deaths, but also in those without such designation. This raises pertinent questions regarding the misclassification of COVID-19 deaths and under-ascertainment of causes. A significant driver of this opacity is the absence of medical certification. In 2020, 45% of deaths occurred without any form of medical attention – 10% points higher than in pre-pandemic years. Within our study cohort, only 22.8% of the deceased had any formal medical documentation indicating the cause of death. Nationally, only 23.4% of deaths are medically certified as per the recent MCCD data. This systemic deficiency compromises mortality surveillance as well as public health planning.

Indirect deaths

A further dimension of the pandemic's mortality burden relates to indirect deaths – a category of deaths that, while not directly caused by SARS-CoV-2 infection, can be reasonably attributed to the wider repercussions of the pandemic. These fatalities, often absent from COVID-19 official statistics, occurred due to systemic disruptions: delays in seeking care due to fear of infection, scarcity of hospital beds and essential medicines, post-infection complications, economic distress, and logistical barriers to healthcare access during prolonged lockdowns.

During our field study, we found that a considerable share of deaths was indirectly linked to these cascading effects of the pandemic. Many people suffered physical and psychological deterioration post-infection, some experienced an exacerbation of chronic conditions, and others refrained from seeking timely medical attention. When extrapolated to the broader national context, particularly in regions where healthcare systems are fragile and supply chains were acutely disrupted, the implications would be sobering. To gauge the true mortality impact of the pandemic, it is insufficient therefore to rely solely on officially recorded COVID-19 deaths or all-cause mortality data.

Our study in Kerala found that 34% of deaths were indirectly attributable to the pandemic, and 9% may have been misclassified. If such patterns exist in a State with a relatively strong public health systems (although the death registration in the prescribed time was around 61% in 2021), the scale of undercounting could be even more pronounced in States such as Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh where discrepancies between excess deaths and official figures are significantly wider.

These findings make a compelling case for a systematic inquiry into the full extent of mortality during the pandemic. Policymakers should consider conducting a large-scale study, which could be also accomplished by including questions on decedents in the next Census. More importantly, they must serve as a wake-up call to urgently reform India's mortality surveillance architecture.

The race for the Catholic vote in Kerala

The arrest of the nuns in Chhattisgarh has thrust the Church into the spotlight

STATE OF PLAY

Hiran Unnikrishnan
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On July 25, when the Chhattisgarh police arrested two nuns from Kerala on charges of forced conversion and trafficking, political parties in the southern State sprang into action. In a rare, united show of urgency, the LDF and the UDF dispatched separate delegations to Chhattisgarh. The BJP is in power in Chhattisgarh; yet its Kerala unit also sent a team, determined not to be outdone. All their efforts paid off as the nuns were finally granted bail by an NIA court.

This wasn't the first time that Christian missionaries from Kerala faced legal trouble or vigilante hostility in north India. However, what set this case apart, and gave it sharp political resonance, was that the nuns were Catholic. Their detention triggered anger, coming as it did just months ahead of two elections: one to the local bodies and another to the Assembly.

As Kerala's third largest demographic group after Hindus and Muslims, Christians, especially Catholics, have long wielded significant influence in the State – not just in education, healthcare, and charitable initiatives, but also in politics and policymaking.

However, in the last few years, the community appeared to drift to the political margins. Attention turned inwards, with growing concerns over issues such as the massive wave of youth migration to the West. The Chhattisgarh episode thrust the Church back into the spotlight even as there remains ambiguity about its political alignment.

Historically, the Catholic vote was regarded a pillar of support for the Congress-led UDF, especially in the central Travancore region. But that relationship began to weaken after the fall of the UDF government. The death of Kerala Congress patriarch K.M. Mani and of senior Congress leader Oommen Chandy further deepened the disconnect.

The CPI(M)-led LDF was quick to seize the opportunity. By aligning with Kerala Congress (M), a splinter group with Catholic roots, it managed to break into the UDF stronghold in central Travancore. In the last Assembly elections, the LDF not only retained power, but also made significant inroads into Catholic-majority constituencies. The Church, however, did not remain silent. It challenged the LDF government on issues such as agrarian distress and wild animal attacks.

Trying to reclaim lost ground, the Congress in May named Sunny Joseph, a Catholic leader with strong ties across the Catholic dioceses of central Travancore and Malabar, as head of the party in Kerala. As the Congress holds just three of the 21 seats in central Travancore, it is hoping that this appointment will lead to its political revival.

Meanwhile, the BJP has been slowly cultivating the Catholic vote in Kerala. What began as an unspoken alignment on shared anxieties, such as 'love jihad' and 'narcotic jihad', gradually evolved into a strategic outreach effort. The party began inducting Christian leaders and building quiet channels with sections of the Church. In April 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the Sacred Heart Cathedral Church in New Delhi and then met with top bishops in Kochi.

However, the honeymoon was short-lived. The violence against churches in Manipur severely strained this fledgling alliance. The BJP then attempted course correction by echoing the Church's criticism of pro-Palestinian rhetoric from rival parties and by supporting the Kerala Catholic Bishops' Council's call for greater political engagement from Christians. The Waqf Board land controversy in Munambam also helped the party attract segments of the Catholic clergy and laity.

Recognising the growing political stakes, the Church has begun to assert itself more in public affairs. Yet beneath this assertion lies an internal dissonance. While a few clergy members appear willing to engage with the BJP, a large section remains cautious, primarily due to the party's ties with Hindutva groups known for anti-Christian rhetoric.

Just as Kerala's political class started to realise that Catholic votes are in play, the Chhattisgarh episode unfolded. For the Catholic Church, the arrests served as a wake-up call about how its clergy and members are perceived, especially in parts of north and central India.

The next two election cycles could determine how the Church chooses to position itself politically. For now, every party is on high alert, knowing that this once-reliable bloc is no longer guaranteed, but is very much worth fighting for.

After a brief pause, physical bank branches are back

The recent rise in physical bank branches was led by private banks, though public banks were not far behind

DATA POINT

Nirupama Kulkarni
Advait Moharir

Over the last two years, India's private sector banks have been expanding their physical presence. The two biggest lenders – HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank – opened 3,284 and 1,341 branches, respectively, between 2022 and 2024. Both lenders also increased their workforce, adding 40,305 and 9,204 employees in FY 2024, respectively. In FY25, however, HDFC Bank added only 994 new employees, while ICICI Bank cut back its workforce by 6,723. The juxtaposition of expanding physical bank presence with a recent slowdown in hirings places Indian banking in new, uncharted waters.

Traditionally, the presence of physical bank branches allowed banks to screen and monitor their borrowers. Proximity to their borrowers made it easier for bankers to gather 'soft' information and monitor their loans closely, especially for loans collateralised by movable properties. In a seminal paper published in 2002, Mitchell Peterson and Raghuram Rajan demonstrated that this model underwent a fundamental shift in the U.S. during the 1980s and 1990s, as banks adopted credit scoring technologies. Information technologies could substitute for the soft information based on local interactions. The average distance between a bank branch and its borrowers increased as a result. Similarly, the recent wave of digitisation in India has also fundamentally changed the need for close physical proximity between banks and their borrowers.

Over the last few years, the digital revolution in India has streamlined various administrative and logistical tasks related to banking. Consequently, ease of access has improved for many individuals across the country. With the smartphone and 4G revolution ensuring affordable Internet access to the most remote corners, multiple banking services, including account creation, verification (via eKYC), and transactions (via UPI) are now possible online. Given this transformation, are traditional brick-and-mortar bank branches becoming obsolete?

From the turn of the century, physical bank branches expanded significantly. Between 2008 and 2023, the number of commercial branches doubled from 25 per 1,000 sq km to 50. Concurrently, accessibility also improved, with the number of commercial bank branches per 1,00,000 adults rising from 9 to 14 **(Chart 1)**.

Both per capita and geographical branch growth have stabilised since 2016. This physical expansion was accompanied by financial inclusion schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, which aimed to provide a bank account to every Indian citizen. According to the Comprehensive Annual Modular Survey, conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation, 94.6% of adults have an active bank account (2022-23).

This phase of expansion was followed by a slowdown. Between 2020 and 2022, the rate of bank office closures saw a sharp uptick, despite new branches opening every quarter. Consequently, net bank branch openings fell sharply and stayed flat throughout this period **(Chart 2)**. This was a period of branch consolidation, with many small branches being subsumed into larger ones.

But from the second half of 2022, banks began re-opening branches, which is reflected in the uptick in net openings. Between 2022Q3 and 2024Q4, 11,963 new bank branches were opened on net, compared to 1,787 net branches between 2020Q1 and 2022Q2.

These closures were largely driven by public sector banks (PSBs), which closed 9,207 branches between 2019 and 2024, compared to private banks, which closed only 579 branches during the same period. PSBs closed an especially large number of branches in 2021 (3,519). From 2022H2 onwards, banks began reopening physical branches in large numbers. While private sector banks cumulatively added 15,537 branches between 2019 and 2024, PSBs added 8,995.

In summary, public banks drove closures, and private banks drove post-pandemic openings. This does not imply, however, that the latter are emerging as substitutes for the former. While fully functioning PSBs are diminishing due to consolidation and amalgamation, they nevertheless continue to service large segments of the population via banking correspondents (BCs). However, payment banks have emerged as the dominant player in this segment, adding between 1,50,000 and 3,00,000 new banking correspondents every year between 2019 and 2024. In comparison, public banks added between 15,000 and 33,000 new BCs, while the same number for private banks never exceeded 8,000 **(Chart 3)**.

Over the last few years, banking in India has undergone a significant churn. Two lessons stand out. One, the reversal of branch closures indicates that brick-and-mortar offices remain an important means of mobilising deposits and providing credit. Bank branches also help impart financial education by spreading awareness about group-specific schemes and potentially facilitating cross-selling of relevant financial products, such as mutual funds and insurance. Two, PSBs and payment banks are rapidly expanding their physical presence via banking correspondents. Outsourcing basic bank services to BCs has possibly allowed these banks to exclusively offer other services online. Hence, by combining the power of the digital revolution with the continued expansion of their physical presence, Indian banks are entering a "phygital" era, indicating that distance still matters in the digital age.

Building more branches

The data for the charts were sourced from Financial Access Survey, IMF, Database of Indian Economy, and the Reserve Bank of India

Chart 1: Bank branch availability over time

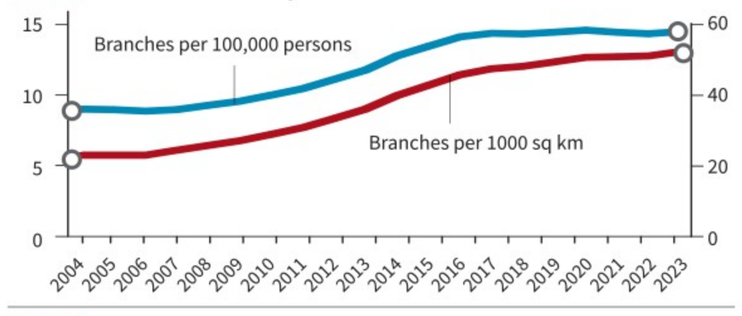


Chart 2: Bank branch openings, closures and net additions over time

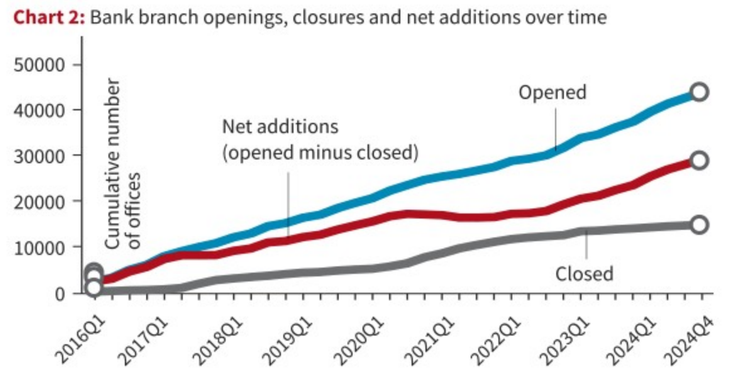
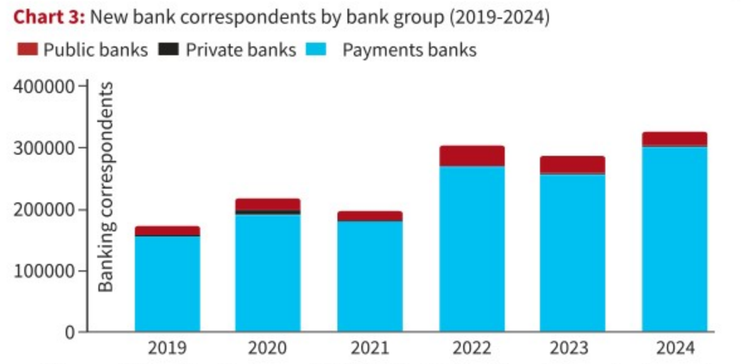


Chart 3: New bank correspondents by bank group (2019-2024)



Nirupama Kulkarni is a Professor at CAFRAL. Advait Moharir is an independent researcher

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 5, 1975

Direct dialling facility to benefit rural areas

New Delhi, Aug. 4: The Posts and Telegraphs Department is working on a rural dialling plan to benefit subscribers in small towns and villages. The plan is based on the traffic pattern obtaining in the rural areas. It will enable the subscribers in a district to have automatic dialling of calls between the towns and with the district headquarters.

Sixty per cent of the calls in the rural areas have been found to be within a revenue district. Subscribers also put through more calls to the district headquarters rather than among themselves. Most of the calls are within a range of 50 kms. The rural dialling plan will provide quick communication in an economic way. Calls from places outside the district will be initially on a manual basis, but will become automatic in course of time.

Several advantages are claimed for the plan from the pattern of traffic. The cost of handling a short distance trunk call is Rs. 3 on average, while the revenue earned remains around one rupee only. Hence it is more advantageous to provide STD service in a revenue district. Already exchanges of 100 or 50 lines are automatic whereas the trunk service is manual. Under the proposed scheme, there will be more customer satisfaction as 60 per cent to 70 per cent can dial themselves. The loss to the Department will also be reduced. The Telecommunication Research Centre (TRC) is fully equipped to meet the demand. It has already evolved a new technique in telephone exchanges or switching centres which will bring down the cost of the network.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 5, 1925

International Prison Congress

London, Aug. 4: The International Prison Congress, which opened at the Imperial Institute, was welcomed by Sir William Joynson-Hicks. On behalf of the Government Sir William emphasised Government's efforts to restore prisoners to normal citizenship and said that despite the increase of population there had been a striking decrease in the number of prisoners, as for instance there were 1,600 now in penal servitude compared with 10,000 fifty years ago.

From Page One

Centre hits back after Trump's tariff threat

The U.S. President had on July 31 signed an executive order that authorised a 25% tariff on imports from India. A day earlier, he had posted on Truth Social that he would be imposing this tariff plus a penalty "because their [India's] tariffs are far too high, among the highest in the world, and they have the most strenuous and obnoxious non-monetary trade barriers of any country".

Apart from this, he also cited India's energy and military equipment purchases from Russia as an irritant.

Following this announcement, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal had informed both Houses of Parliament that the government was "studying the implications" of Mr. Trump's announcement, consulting all the relevant domestic stakeholders, and would "take all steps necessary to secure our national interest".

Western trade with Russia

"This is significantly more than India's total trade with Russia that year or subsequently," the MEA said. "European imports of LNG [liquefied natural gas] in 2024, in fact, reached a record 16.5 mn tonnes, surpassing the last record of 15.21 mn tonnes in 2022."

Europe's trade with Russia includes not just energy, but also fertilizers, mining products, chemicals, iron and steel and machinery and transport equipment, the statement said.

"Where the United States is concerned, it continues to import from Russia uranium hexafluoride for its nuclear industry, palladium for its EV [electric vehicle] industry, fertilizers as well as chemicals," the MEA noted.

"In this background, the targeting of India is unjustified and unreasonable," it added. "Like any major economy, India will take all necessary measures to safeguard its national interests and economic security."

The 25% tariff places India at a relative disadvantage compared to some of its competitors such as Vietnam, Indonesia, Mexico, and the Philippines. Mr. Trump's new tariffs are expected to take effect from August 7

Former Jharkhand CM Shibu Soren dies aged 81

PM Narendra Modi offers condolences to Shibu Soren's son, Jharkhand CM Hemant Soren, in New Delhi. ANI

"He was like a protective shade for Jharkhand and the tribals. That shade has left us today. We will always remember him," the Chief Minister, who was accompanied by his wife Kalpana Soren, said, adding that Mr. Soren's legacy would live on.

Mr. Soren was born on January 11, 1944 in Nemra village of undivided Bihar, which now comes under Ramgarh district of Jharkhand.

He co-founded the JMM along with A.K. Roy and Binod Bihari Mahto in 1973. The JMM soon became the primary political voice for the demand for a separate tribal State and got support across the Chotanagpur and Santhal Pargana regions.

He served as Chief Minister of Jharkhand three times, but never completed a full term. He was elected several times to the Lok Sabha from Dumka. As a key figure in the United Progressive Alliance government, he also served as Union Coal Minister.

Leaders cutting across party lines paid tribute to Mr. Soren. President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge visited the Sir Ganga Ram Hospital and paid tributes to the veteran tribal leader.

Ms. Murmu said his demise was a big loss in the space of social justice. "He championed the cause of tribal identity and formation of the State of Jharkhand," she said in a post on X.

Condoling the death, Mr. Modi said in a post: "Shri Shibu Soren Ji was a grassroots leader who rose through the ranks of public life with unwavering dedication to the people. He was particularly passionate about empowering tribal communities, the poor and downtrodden."

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, and Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma condoled the death.

Paying tribute to Mr. Soren, Jharkhand's first Chief Minister and the current Leader of the Opposition in the State Assembly, Babulal Marandi said his journey was filled with struggle.

The Jharkhand government has declared a three-day State mourning from August 4 to 6.

His last rites would be performed in his native village, Nemra, on Tuesday. Mr. Soren is survived by his wife Rupi Soren, sons Hemant Soren and Basant Soren, and daughter Anjali Soren.

Women's inclusion in armed forces a priority, says Rajnath

Officials highlight expanding opportunities for women across all three armed services; as per data, women make up 13.4% of IAF, 6.85% of Army, 6% of Navy, with numbers rising steadily since 2005

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

The parliamentary consultative committee on Defence, headed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, was briefed on the representation of women in the armed forces.

Mr. Singh spoke on the government's commitment to provide maximum representation to women in the forces.

As per the data from the Ministry of Defence (MoD), women form 13.4% of the Indian Air force workforce – the highest among all three services – while they make up 6.85% of the Army's workforce and 6% of the Navy's.

In 2024, there were a total of 1,735 women in the Army, 1,614 in the Air Force, and 674 in the Navy.

According to data, 13.4% women constitute the Indian Air force workforce, the highest among all three services. EMMANUAL YOGINI

In 2005, the figures were 767, 574, and 154, respectively.

Twelve branches in the Army are open to women officers, including combat. In the Navy, all branches are open for women officers except submarines. All branches of the Air Force are open for women officers.

More to come

Asked about women's representation in the armed forces, a senior Defence Ministry official said that they were opening more and more branches for women for all categories. Women are eligible for various roles, including technical and non-technical positions, and can join through different entry schemes. Most of the defence training institutes and academies have been opened for women.

Colonel Sofiya Qureshi of the Indian Army, who led the Operation Sindoor briefing along with Wing Commander Vyomika Singh of the Air Force, have become an inspiration for women aiming to join the armed forces.

Another senior defence officer said that women in the armed forces are doing remarkably well and their number is only going to increase in the future as the forces adopt a more gender neutral approach.

Operation Sindoor unprecedented in scale: Army chief

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

General Upendra Dwivedi

Army chief General Upendra Dwivedi has lauded Operation Sindoor as a pivotal, intelligence-driven mission that redefined India's counter-terrorism approach, showcasing the armed forces' capability to address evolving warfare challenges and readiness for fifth-generation conflicts.

He was inaugurating a research facility, Agnishodh, a joint project of the Indian Army Research Cell (IARC) and the IIT, Madras on the campus of the latter on Monday for self-reliance in defence technology.

Addressing a gathering at the IIT on the theme "Operation Sindoor - A new chapter in India's fight against terrorism", General Dwivedi described the operation as a landmark, intelligence-driven response that redefined India's counter-terrorism doctrine.

He noted that the 88-hour operation was unprecedented in scale, range, depth, and strategic impact, and was executed across the DIME spectrum. Highlighting the evolving nature of warfare, he underscored that the Indian armed forces are prepared for fifth-generation conflicts driven by non-contact warfare, strategic tempo, and psychological dominance.

Review pact with U.K. and reject threats by Trump: trade unions

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A joint statement by 10 Central trade unions (CTUs) and the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) on Monday has demanded a parliamentary review of the Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement (CETA) signed recently with the U.K. The organisations asked the Union government to reject U.S. President Donald Trump's "tariff threats" and assert India's sovereign right to trade with all nations, including Russia.

"All negotiations for a U.S.-India trade deal must be halted to prevent further corporate exploitation. No more secret trade agreements – all future deals must undergo full parliamentary scrutiny and public consultation," the joint statement added.

"Instead of firmly rejecting this intimidation, the Central government has responded with silence, signalling its willingness to compromise India's strategic autonomy in favour of the U.S.A. This capitulation paves the way for an even more exploitative India-U.S. trade deal, which would grant American agribusiness corporations like Cargill unrestricted access to India's dairy sector, agriculture, resulting in collapsing prices and destroying the farming community, along with endangering the food security of the nation. It would also trigger de-industrialisation in India and skyrocketing unemployment," it said.

Crime Branch nabs 2 ABVP members in Odisha college student death case

Satyasundar Barik
BHUBANESWAR

The Crime Branch of the Odisha Police has arrested two persons linked to the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) in connection with the self-immolation of a student on the campus of F.M. Autonomous College in Balasore, which led to her death last month.

The arrests were made late on Sunday night. Those taken into custody include Subhra Sambit Nayak, ABVP's State joint secretary, and Jyotiprakash Biswal, who had reportedly sustained injuries while trying to rescue the girl.

The 20-year-old girl had accused her teacher, Samira Sahoo, of harassing her. However, her repeated grievances were not redressed. On July 12, she reportedly set herself on fire shortly after leaving the principal's office.

Frayed tempers: Student union members shouting slogans during a protest against the death of a 20-year-old girl. FILE PHOTO

She died of her injuries two days later at the AIIMS, Bhubaneswar, with 95% burns.

Video footage from earlier showed Subhra Sambit Nayak arguing with the principal on behalf of the girl and demanding action against the teacher. Both accused were produced in court and have been remanded in judicial custody for 14 days.

During the investigation, Crime Branch officials have questioned students, teachers, parents, and journalists, and examined video evidence over the past several weeks. More arrests are likely in the coming days.

The case has raised serious questions about existence of functional Internal Complaint Committees mandated under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 (POSH Act) and the University Grants Commission (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal of Sexual Harassment of Women Employees and Students in Higher Educational Institutions) Regulations, 2015.

Those in distress or having suicidal tendencies can seek help and counselling by calling: Sanjivini, Society for Mental Health, telephone: 011-40769002 (Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-7.30 p.m.)

Cong. speaks in different voices on Trump tariffs

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress leaders on Monday spoke in different voices on the issue of U.S. President Donald Trump's latest comment on imposing higher tariffs for buying Russian oil.

"So much for Howdy Modi. So much for Namaste Trump. So much for Ab ki Baar Trump Sarkar. So much for BJP MPs hailing Narendra Modi as India's trump card," party's communications chief Jairam Ramesh posted on X.

"This is what happens when foreign policy becomes about image building, not national interest," he added.

His party colleague, Manish Tewari asked the American President not to lose his sleep over it. "We have enough resilience as a nation to withstand your tariff threat," he added.

Former Union Minister Anand Sharma noted that Mr. Trump's comments on "India and its economy was unacceptable". "As the fourth largest economy, India has resilience & inherent strength to engage with the world on principles of equality & mutual respect," he posted on X.

Pollution Control Boards have power to impose restitutionary damages: SC

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday gave Pollution Control Boards more teeth by declaring their power to impose and collect restitutionary damages to completely restore polluted air and waterbodies back to their original, pristine selves in an ecosystem.

"We direct that Pollution Control Boards can impose and collect as restitutionary and compensatory damages fixed sums of monies or require furnishing bank guarantees as an ex-ante measure towards potential environmental damage in exercise of powers under Sections 33A and 31A of the Water and Air Acts," Justice P.S. Narasimha, who authored the judgment, held.

The judgment came on an appeal filed by the Delhi Pollution Control Committee against a Delhi High Court decision that it was not empowered to levy compensatory damages in exercise of powers under Section 33A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and Section 31A of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

The Bench directed that the power should be enforced only after issuing the necessary subordinate legislation. N. RAJESH

The Bench, including Justice Manoj Misra, further directed that the power should be enforced only after issuing the necessary subordinate legislation in the form of rules and regulations under both statutes. The rules must incorporate the basic principles of natural justice.

"According to the polluter pays principle, the responsibility for repairing the damage is that of the offending industry... The focus has to be on restoration of the ecosystem as close and similar as possible to the specific one that was damaged," Justice Narasimha observed.

Justice Narasimha held that the Pollution Control Boards had expansive powers and "enormous responsibilities" under the Water Act and the Air Act. They had a broad statutory mandate to prevent, control and abate water and air pollution.

The provisions under these statutes bestowed the Boards with the power to direct closure, prohibition or regulation of any industry, operation or process. Further, this power extended to directing the stoppage or regulation of supply of electricity, water or any other service. The laws allow the Boards significant flexibility in deciding the nature of directions.

Court questions U.P.'s haste in taking over Bankey Bihari temple

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday questioned the Uttar Pradesh government's haste in promulgating an ordinance to take over the management of the ancient Bankey Bihari temple at Vrindavan in Mathura.

A Bench headed by Justice Surya Kant also expressed disapproval of the "clandestine" manner employed by the State to secure the court's permission, getting a judgment on May 15 by filing a civil dispute to use temple funds to develop the Shri Banke Bihari Temple Corridor project.

The Bench orally considered recalling its directions in the May verdict allowing the use of the temple funds for the corridor development project, which may spell a blow to the State government's plans.

The court also suggested passing an order to have a committee manage the temple until the High Court decides the validity of the ordinance.

The Bench adjourned the case to August 5, asking Additional Solicitor General K.M. Nataraj, who appeared for Uttar Pradesh, to take instructions from the State government on the suggestions.

The SC assured all stakeholders that a responsible person will take care of temple affairs.

Find a way out

"This is the land of Lord Krishna. He was the first mediator known to the world. Let's find a way out to resolve this dispute that has been pending for years and develop the area in the interests of lakhs of devotees who visit these iconic religious places. Basic amenities need to be created, as nowadays religious tourism is one of the biggest sources of revenue," Justice Kant remarked.

The Bench assured all stakeholders that a responsible person would take care of temple affairs.

Kiren Rijiju dismisses demand for debate on SIR

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The government will be compelled to press for the passage of various Bills amid din in Parliament, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju said on Monday, as the Opposition remained adamant on its demand for a debate on the ongoing special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, which the government has refused to concede.

Mr. Rijiju insisted that the government wants a thorough discussion in Parliament over its Bills but will be compelled to push for their passage from Tuesday in "national interest" as the proposed legislations are important for governance.

Hitting out at the Opposition parties, he said that they had agreed to a two-day discussion on the National Sports Governance Bill and National Anti-Doping (Amendment) Bill, both of which were scheduled to be taken up in the Lok Sabha on Monday.

Mr. Rijiju once again dismissed the possibility of holding a debate on the SIR.

SC stays defamation case proceedings against Rahul

Criticising Congress leader, it asks why he was compelled to air his views on social media; the leader says remarks on India-China border tensions were not intended to damage reputations

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday stayed proceedings in a criminal defamation case against the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, in a Lucknow court for remarks made to presspersons during his Bharat Jodo Yatra about the skirmishes reported between Indian and Chinese soldiers along the border.

"How did you get to know that 2,000 sq. km of Indian territory was occupied? Were you there? Do you have any credible proof? If you are a true Indian, you would not say all these things," Justice Dipankar Datta criticised Mr. Gandhi.

Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi and advocate Prasanna S. responded that a "true Indian would also say our Indian soldiers were beaten up..." Mr. Singhvi said his client's remarks were meant for disclosure of information in public interest.

> If you are a true Indian, you would not say all these things... Whatever you have to say, you say it in Parliament. These are issues in Parliament. Why do you say it in social media posts?
>
> **JUSTICE DIPANKAR DATTA**
> Supreme Court judge

Justice Datta, heading a Bench including Justice A.G. Masih, asked why Mr. Gandhi was compelled to air his views on social media, and that he should ask his questions in Parliament.

The judge said freedom of speech did not mean that a "responsible Leader of Opposition would do all this".

"Whatever you have to say, you say it in the Parliament. These are issues in the Parliament. Why do you say it in social media posts?" Justice Datta asked.

'Freeze dissent'

Mr. Singhvi said his case was centred on the argument that one need not agree with what was said, but the law of defamation could not be used to freeze dissent to government policies.

Mr. Gandhi said he had over 20 cases in speech-related offences in various courts. They showed a "pattern of several busybodies looking to drown him in cases".

"These proceedings are all nothing but lawfare – a clear abuse of the process of law in furtherance of wielding the heckler's veto to muzzle and silence the petitioner [Mr. Gandhi] from articulating his opposition to the ruling government's policies and positions," Mr. Gandhi argued.

The complaint case was instituted against Mr. Gandhi by a retired Border Roads Organisation officer, Uday Shankar Shrivastava, before a Lucknow Magistrate court in August 2023. The Lucknow court had issued summons to the Congress leader in February.

'Political remarks'

Mr. Gandhi said his statements, made during the Bharat Jodo Yatra on December 16, 2022 in response to a media query concerning Indo-China border tensions, were "political". Mr. Shrivastava, however, claimed that the Opposition leader had defamed the Indian Army and lowered his own personal reputation in society.

The Congress leader said the remarks were not intended to damage reputations. The comments were limited to public questions and formed a critique of governmental policy.

The Bench issued notice to the State of Uttar Pradesh and Mr. Shrivastava, represented by senior advocate Gaurav Bhatia, who was present on a caveat, returnable in three weeks.

Asking questions is being branded as 'anti-national': Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Hours after the Supreme Court censured the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, for claiming that 2,000 square kilometres of Indian territory was under Chinese occupation, the Congress on Monday asserted that every patriotic Indian had sought answers after the Galwan clash of 2020.

Taking to social media platform X, Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal asserted that the Opposition had raised questions on alleged Chinese incursions repeatedly, both inside and outside Parliament.

"But this Government, in its delirium to peddle propaganda and project hollow bravado 24x7, is too afraid to face real questions in Parliament," Mr. Venugopal said.

'Silence is patriotism'

"But in Modi's India, asking questions is branded 'anti-national.' Silence is 'patriotism,' and the 'True Indian' badge is reserved for the timid, the blindfolded, and the spineless. Oh my Lord!!," the Congress leader added.

K.C. Venugopal

In a separate X post, Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh accused the Narendra Modi government of "hiding the truth with its policy of DDLJ – deny, distract, lie, and justify."

"The fact of the matter is that the Modi government is responsible for the biggest territorial setback India has faced since 1962, and it is pursuing 'normalisation' with a hostile China because of its cowardice and misplaced economic priorities," Ramesh said.

Party's media and publicity head Pawan Khera added, "The Constitution gives this right to ask questions to every patriotic Indian."

Rahul's credibility is at stake, says BJP leader

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Monday stated that Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi's credibility is at stake, citing the Supreme Court's remarks during the hearing of a criminal defamation case related to his December 2022 comments on Indo-China border tensions.

At a press conference, BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia said: "Such immature, anti-Army, and demoralising statements made without any evidence or facts, especially when our Army was engaged in the Galwan incident, raise serious questions. Why does Rahul Gandhi make such statements?"

"The question arises: Does India deserve a more responsible and better Leader of Opposition? As a Leader of the Opposition, who has taken an oath under the Constitution to safeguard the sovereignty of our country, is he destroying that very sovereignty?...is he helping the nations which are inimical to our country? Is he demoralising the brave Indian armed forces?" he asked.

Bihar leaders find SIR draft roll 'difficult' to compare

Sobhana K. Nair
Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

Even as the Election Commission said that no party has filed any claim or objection regarding the draft electoral rolls for Bihar published on August 1 as part of the special intensive revision (SIR) exercise, Opposition parties in the State on Monday accused the poll body of "deliberately" making it "difficult" for them to compare the draft rolls with the list issued ahead of the Lok Sabha election in January 2024.

The draft rolls have more than 65 lakh fewer names than the previous list. The EC has attributed this to deaths, migration and duplication.

It said that in the past three days, 1,927 individual complaints have been raised.

All 12 political parties in Bihar have more than 1.6 lakh booth-level agents registered with the EC for the SIR.

Opposition leaders *The Hindu* spoke to pointed out several technical problems – the first being that the January 2024 electoral rolls are not available in machine-readable format – are making it difficult to run an analysis comparing it with the draft rolls.

The booth-level data of the deletions along with the reasons have not been provided in each district, the parties said. They pointed out that in case a person finds his name deleted from the rolls, he has to file a fresh application in Form 6, and such cases are not being categorised as complaints.

'Exclusion-friendly'

Rashtriya Janta Dal (RJD) leader Manoj K. Jha said that the SIR is not "voter-friendly", but "exclusion-friendly". "The draft electoral roll published after such a massive exercise should have been self-explanatory. You have handed out a consolidated draft roll to the political parties, without indicating who you have deleted and why, leaving it entirely on us to do the exercise in the limited time available," he said.

Many issues: Opposition parties in Bihar accused the EC of "deliberately" making it "difficult" for them to compare the electoral rolls from January 2024 with the draft rolls published on August 1. ANI

The RJD's Araria district president, Manish Yadav, said that he spent the last three days trying to procure detailed data. "While I have managed to get the data for Araria, I have been told by my colleagues from other districts that this data is not available to them," he said. The RJD is planning to hold camps to allow the voters to come forward with complaints.

CPI(ML) general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya rejected the EC's claims on no complaints from political parties. "We have filed several complaints with the Bihar CEO, how can they say there are no complaints. When an individual's name is deleted, she/he has to file a fresh application, which the EC is not counting as a complaint," he said.

Accusing the EC of being less than transparent, he said, "For example, we got the Darbhanga district electoral roll, where there are 30 lakh voters. Out of them two lakh are said to be permanently shifted, but we do not have booth-level data to do the verification."

Technical teams

The party has set up technical teams to carry out the verification online and is also sending people for physical verification, though Mr. Bhattacharya said, it is a daunting task given the numbers involved and time given.

Congress leader Praveen Chakravarty said that without machine-readable electoral rolls of both January 2024 and the SIR draft roll, running analytical tools is difficult. "How can the onus of holding a free and fair election be on political parties? What if it is a newly constituted political party, don't they have a right to have level-playing field, just because they don't have the manpower to carry out verification," he asked.

Voters have many options to check whether their names are there in the draft rolls, including on the EC website by searching with name, age, and district, or existing EPIC number.

Sunita Devi, an Anganwadi worker, who is the BLO in Phulwari Assembly constituency, said most people had made it to the draft list in her booth and since all of them had phones, they were checking their names online.

INBRIEF

Modi to inaugurate new Kartavya Bhavan tomorrow

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on August 6 inaugurate the new Kartavya Bhavan in the national capital. The inauguration will be followed by an address at a public programme on Kartavya Path. Kartavya Bhavan-03 is part of the broader transformation of the Central Vista. It is the first of several upcoming Common Central Secretariat buildings, which aim to streamline administrative processes and enable agile governance. The project embodies the government's broader administrative reform agenda. Kartavya Bhavan-03 has been designed to foster efficiency, innovation, and collaboration by bringing together various Ministries and Departments that are currently scattered across the national capital.

Rahul Gandhi to set out on Bihar *yatra* from August 17

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi will set out on a *Matdata Adhikar Yatra* (voters' rights march) in Bihar in three phases covering 30 districts from August 17. The *yatra*, originally scheduled from August 10, has been "postponed by a week" following the death of Jharkhand Mukti Morcha leader Shibu Soren, Congress spokesperson Asit Nath Tiwari told *The Hindu*. "Now it will commence from August 17 in the State," Mr. Tiwari said. Mr. Gandhi is likely to commence his journey from Sasaram, the district headquarters of Rohtas. Senior Congress leaders and *Mahagathbandhan* (grand alliance) leaders are likely to join Mr. Gandhi over the course of the *yatra*. The Assembly election is due in the State in October-November.

Amit Shah meets Bengal MPs, discusses poll preparations

The BJP on Monday got down to poll preparations for the Assembly elections in West Bengal next year, with Union Home Minister Amit Shah meeting the party MPs from that State, with the special intensive revision (SIR) of voter list and seats reserved for Scheduled Castes and Tribes coming in for special mention. The meeting comes in the background of a drive by various BJP-ruled States to identify, what they term, illegal Bangladeshi migrants, and the controversial circular issued by the Delhi police, about people speaking "Bangladeshi" language. The Election Commission had last week directed West Bengal's Chief Electoral Officer Manoj Agarwal to begin preparations for a SIR of electoral rolls in the State.

SC to hear Baghel's plea against specific provisions of PMLA

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to examine a plea by Congress leader Bhupesh Baghel claiming specific provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) led to the violation of an accused person's fundamental rights against self-incrimination and to maintain silence under questioning by an investigating agency.

"Section 50 and 63 of the PMLA are unconstitutional, being violative of fundamental rights guaranteed under the Constitution. The framework under Sections 50(2) and 50(3) of the Act infringes the fundamental rights against self incrimination guaranteed under Article 20(3) of the Constitution. The provisions permit the ED to summon any person, compel answers and production of documents under a threat of penalty," the petition said.

A Bench headed by Justice Surya Kant agreed to list Mr. Baghel's plea challenging Sections 50 and 63 along with a batch of petitions challenging various provisions of the 2002 Act. They are scheduled to be heard on August 6.

Refuses separate pleas

The court refused to entertain separate petitions filed by Mr. Baghel and his son, Chaitanya Baghel, who was arrested by the ED under the PMLA in the Chhattisgarh liquor scam case on July 18, challenging the "piecemeal investigations" being carried out. They contended that the probe has become a source of harassment.

Abhishek to lead Trinamool in LS; chief whip Kalyan Banerjee resigns

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Trinamool Congress named its national general secretary, Abhishek Banerjee, as the party's new leader in the Lok Sabha, replacing Sudip Bandopadhyay who has been unwell for months.

Kalyan Banerjee resigned as chief whip of the party.

These changes were announced after a virtual meeting chaired by Trinamool Congress president and West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee with the party MPs. Without naming any individual, she expressed disappointment over poor coordination among Trinamool's Lok Sabha members.

Mr. Kalyan's resignation comes after a public spat with his colleague Mahua Moitra in April, during a visit to the Election Commission in Delhi. Mr. Kalyan said that he was being blamed unfairly for lack of coordination among MPs even as some barely attend Parliament.

New roles: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee with party general secretary Abhishek Banerjee during a rally in Kolkata. ANI

"I have quit as the party's chief whip in Lok Sabha as 'Didi' (Mamata Banerjee) said during the virtual meeting that there is a lack of coordination among party MPs. So the blame is on me. Hence, I have decided to step down," Mr. Kalyan told a news channel.

The MP, who is a senior advocate, said he felt humiliated that the party was not holding those responsible for indiscipline and poor attendance to account, but instead making him the fall guy.

At the meeting, Ms. Banerjee, as per sources, who spoke for nearly 20 minutes, said that while the Rajya Sabha team was working well, the performance of Lok Sabha members had been below expectations. She acknowledged that two of its senior-most MPs, Sudip Bandopadhyay and Saugata Roy, were not well. "In the absence of senior leaders, coordination has collapsed," Ms. Banerjee is learnt to have said.

She then went on to announce as per sources, that her nephew Mr. Abhishek will lead the Lok Sabha team. "Abhishek will lead the party in the Lok Sabha until Sudip Bandopadhyay recovers fully," she reportedly said. His appointment signals the elevation of Mr. Abhishek as the party's Delhi point person.

INBRIEF

Largest Asian tortoise back in Nagaland community reserve

The critically endangered Asian giant tortoise, the largest in mainland Asia, has been reintroduced into the Zeliang Community Reserve in Nagaland's Peren. Officials said 10 individuals of the species from Nagaland Zoological Park in Chümoukedima were released through a community event on Saturday. The event was organised by the Nagaland Forest Department and the India Turtle Conservation Programme. The tortoises were released in a pre-constructed soft-release enclosure to help them develop site fidelity before dispersal. Once found in large numbers, the species was almost wiped out from Nagaland over a decade ago.

PM's *Pariksha Pe Charcha* sets Guinness World Record

Union Ministers Dharmendra Pradhan, Ashwini Vaishnaw, and Jitin Prasada on Monday received the Guinness World Record for the latest edition of "*Pariksha Pe Charcha*", an annual event led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The initiative, being organised by the Ministry of Education in collaboration with MyGov since 2018, has been conferred the record for the "Most people registered on a citizen engagement platform in one month". "A matter of great delight and personal satisfaction to accept the Guinness World Record... #PPC2025 has set a world record with 3.53 crore+ registrations and over 21 crore viewership on television," said Mr. Pradhan.

Bangladesh arrests 48 Indian fishermen, impounds 3 boats

Union Home Department is looking into matter, says District Magistrate; arrested fishermen are all from Sunderbans; West Bengal fishermen association decides to sever ties with the detained

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

Persistent problem: Last year, Bangladesh released 95 Indian fishermen, while India repatriated 90 Bangladeshi fishermen detained in Indian waters. FILE PHOTO

The Bangladesh Navy has arrested 48 Indian fishermen, including 14 on Saturday night, over the past 20 days for allegedly straying into Bangladeshi waters.

It has also impounded three trawlers. All the fishermen are from the Kwakdip area of the Sunderbans in South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal.

While on July 13, two trawlers – *FB Jhar* and *FB Mangalchandi* – were impounded, the third boat, *Paromita,* was detained on Saturday night.

The District Magistrate of South 24 Parganas, Sumit Gupta, said the administration had informed the Union Home Ministry about the arrest of the fishermen. "It [repatriation] is not in the local authority's jurisdiction. Since this is a matter of international relations, the Home Department is looking into it," Mr. Gupta told *The Hindu*.

Visuals shared by local media showed the fishermen in the custody of Bangladeshi authorities, with their wrists tied to their waists with ropes.

All Bengal Fishermen Association member Joy Krishna Haldar slammed the arrested fishermen, and demanded "strict punishment" for them.

'Annual problem'

"We have decided that no one should venture out beyond the maritime borders. If we do not catch any fish, we come back empty-handed and starve," Mr. Haldar, who is also from Kwakdip, told *The Hindu* on Monday. "This has become an annual problem. Why do they go beyond the maritime boundary when they know the consequences? This looks deliberate," he added.

Mr. Haldar said fishermen became "greedy", and strayed into the Bangladeshi waters in hope of a better catch, especially of Hilsa.

Fish from Bangladeshi waters commands a premium in West Bengal, he added. He said that the association had decided to sever ties with the detained fishermen.

Last year, 95 fishermen released by Bangladesh were felicitated by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Sagar Island. India also repatriated 90 Bangladeshi fishermen detained in Indian waters.

While India returned two trawlers belonging to Bangladeshi fishermen, six Indian vessels were returned by the neighbouring country in the exchange held near the International Maritime Boundary Line.

Study shows clerical errors in documents 'fatal' for citizenship

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

The study calls for an urgent rethinking of legal structures governing citizenship in India.

An 'f' ruined Rahman Ali's chances to prove his citizenship in the Gauhati High Court in 2013.

He failed to establish that his father Khurshed Ali, recorded in the electoral rolls in 1989, 1997, and 2010, was the same person as Furshed Ali, enlisted in the 1965 and 1970 rolls in Assam.

In 2010, the court noted "discrepancy" in the name of the father of Rajendra Das, enlisted in 1970 as Radha Charan and Radhacharan Das in 1966. And in 2019, Ibrahim Ali Mir was unable to establish that 'Late Nurul', listed as his father in the 1989 rolls, was the same person as Nurul Islam in the 1965 and 1970 lists of electors.

These are among several instances of inconsistencies in documents that have been "fatal" for the citizenship of many in Assam, driven by a "pervasive culture of suspicion", a study titled "Unmaking citizens: The architecture of rights violations and exclusion in India's citizenship trials" revealed.

The report by the Bengaluru-based National Law School of India University and the Queen Mary University of London, released on July 27, called for an urgent, fundamental rethinking of the legal structures governing citizenship in India, given the possibility of an Assam-like exercise to update the National Register of Citizens across the country. Mohsin Alam Bhat, Arushi Gupta and Shardul Gopujkar are the authors of the study.

The study elaborates on systematic violations of natural justice leading up to status determination, such as denying access to inquiry reports and shielding of officers, and systematic violations during the citizenship determination process by improper cross-questioning and evidence not read as a whole.

It further said the procedural defects are not corrected and are often reinforced by the court's jurisprudence.

Shibu Soren: tribal leader and former CM of Jharkhand who came to national limelight

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Grassroots leader: Former Jharkhand Chief Minister Shibu Soren with his son Hemant Soren at an event. ANI

Before Shibu Soren started his political journey, he was a social reformer. Later, as a political leader, he fought for a separate Jharkhand State, earning the respect of all parties.

The former Jharkhand Chief Minister was born on January 11, 1944, at Nemra village in undivided Bihar, currently in Ramgarh district of Jharkhand. As a tribal leader, he challenged the social structure at that time. From 1962, he had fought against the moneylending system which, at its peak, deprived borrowers of all but one-third of their produce in the tribal areas.

Describing his fight against the money lenders, Tanuj Khatri, spokesperson and central committee member of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), told *The Hindu* that Soren had started a campaign to cut paddy on lands occupied by the moneylenders in lieu of loans.

Tribal women would harvest paddy, and men with bows and arrows would keep a watch.

Hailing from the Santhal tribal group, Soren got the sobriquet Guruji because he used to organise night schools for children who could not afford to go to school.

'Revolutionary spirit'

Dr. Khatri said *Dishom Guru* was not just a political leader but a revolutionary spirit who united fragmented struggles. He brought together diverse communities, bonded by a shared pain and common cause, to fight exploitation, social injustice, and land alienation. He had his influence in neighbouring Odisha and West Bengal as well. "He was a pioneer of grassroots mobilisation, inspiring an entire generation to rise against feudal structures, and exploitative systems. From the forests to the Legislative Assembly, he gave voice to the voiceless," he said.

Soren played a crucial role in the creation of separate State of Jharkhand, turning a long-standing dream into reality.

The book *Jharkhand Andolan Ka Dastavej: Soshan, Sangharsh Aur Sahadat*, written by Anuj Kumar Sinha, says A.K. Rai, Vinod Bihari Mahato, and Soren were running movements under different banners. On February 4, 1972, the three sat together and decided to merge the different banners to form the JMM. Vinod Bihari Mahato became its first president, and Shibu Soren the general secretary. After the death of Nirmal Mahato, the party's president in 1987, the command of the JMM came into the hands of Shibu Soren.

He became the Chief Minister of Jharkhand thrice. However, he could not complete his term neither as a Union Minister nor as a Chief Minister. Every time he had to resign in the middle of his term. He served at the party's top post till April 2025. With health failing, his son Hemant Soren was elected JMM chief.

He was associated with many controversies and serious allegations; despite that, he remained the tallest tribal leader in Jharkhand. Soren and other JMM MPs were charged with accepting bribes to save the P.V. Narasimha Rao government in the infamous JMM bribery case of 1993.

Independence Day invites this year to feature Chenab bridge, Operation Sindoor

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

The bridge across the Chenab river is the world's highest railway bridge. IMRAN NISSAR

Independence Day invites from the Defence Ministry for this year's Independence Day celebrations will have Operation Sindoor as the central theme, an official said on Monday.

In another change, the Central Vista image embossed on the cards will be replaced by a sketch of the world's highest railway bridge that spans the Chenab river which was recently inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Posters and banners around the venue will also mention Operation Sindoor. Operation Sindoor was launched by India on May 7 in response to the Pahalgam terror attack in which 25 Indians and one Nepali citizen were murdered.

Security briefing

A high-level meeting was held at the Red Fort on the Independence Day celebrations.

Security agencies have recommended bulletproof glass around the Prime Minister's dais, but the final decision is yet to be taken.

This year, more guests will be invited to attend the celebration. To accommodate them, more tiered seating structures have been prepared.

Anti-drone measures

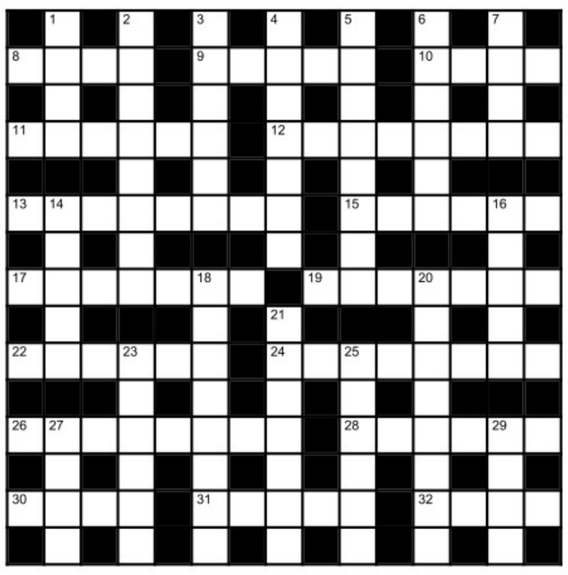
"Installation of anti-drone measures, a radar near the Red Fort, and the threat posed by unmanned devices were discussed in detail with the Army. The Defence Ministry will be deploying an anti-drone system to prevent any aerial breach, and the Indian Air Force will be on high alert. Drones are among our key security concerns. We have also instructed vendors responsible for installing CCTVs around the venue not to use any Chinese equipment for surveillance purposes," an official said.

TH CROSSWORD + 14555

(set by Incognito)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 Tailless mouse scampering and wrestling (4)
9 Devil who reformed to become Santa? (5)
10 American tax authority includes king and irritates (4)
11 Father and a couple of daughters get the French means of boat propulsion (6)
12 Game to sing about drink (8)
13 Deploy National Guard in grotto in south east to rummage for usable stuff (8)
15 Desire to harm mummy with parasites (6)
17 Boy abused badly for smears (7)
19 A brain is confused about a sea (7)
22 Witch estimates, to some extent, it needs to be scratched (6)
24 Left without parents (8)
26 Things to be thrown usually purchased before marriage (8)
28 Hiding behind stone, alien makes spaceship engine (6)
30 Only one part of a shoe (4)
31 Post office has exciting picture (5)
32 It's right on the map, perhaps, before Anglia (4)

Down

1 Island near Florida having copper and barium (4)
2 Avoid going around carrying student in Massachusetts and European region (8)
3 Since bird is back on the ship,... (6)
4 Wrongly heats in ship and hides (7)
5 Whistle blower in school unit with queen (8)
6 Flying pilots and weapon (6)
7 Peel's small relative (4)
14 He's in court having captured a conman (5)
16 Hundred rushed with some enthusiasm to get lifting device (5)
18 Violently busts operations in boarding places (3,5)
20 British farms' subordinate units (8)
21 Type of lizard, perhaps, from can returned in back room (7)
23 Raised that boy following Theodore (6)
25 Average offspring becomes a clergyman (6)
27 Bachelor wearing specs has European instrument (4)
29 Removing curs from Syracuse redevelopment? Not hard... (4)

SUDOKU

				6	5		4	
			4	2			6	7
	7			9				
5							2	6
1		8				5		3
4	6							1
				4			5	
7	4			1	9			
	1		2	8				

No.SS6602 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

	M	D		W	D		I		R	C				
D	A	D	O		A	L	I	E	N		A	L	L	Y
	M		M		P		L		T		S		A	
T	A	H	I	N	I		E	L	E	P	H	A	N	T
			N		T		M		R		E			
O	P	T	I	M	I	S	M		N	A	R	R	O	W
	R		C				A		E				B	
L	U	C	K	N	O	W		S	T	A	M	M	E	R
	N				N		P				O		S	
R	E	V	E	A	L			A	S	S	I	S	T	E	D
			X		O		S		C		Q			
M	E	N	T	I	O	N	S		A	C	U	M	E	N
	P		E		K		A		L		I		R	
J	I	N	N		E	A	G	L	E		T	R	O	Y
	C		T		R		E		S		O		S	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	8	9	7	5	6	4	2	3
3	4	5	1	8	2	6	7	9
6	2	7	4	3	9	8	5	1
8	1	6	3	2	4	7	9	5
2	7	3	8	9	5	1	4	6
5	9	4	6	1	7	2	3	8
7	5	1	2	6	3	9	8	4
9	6	2	5	4	8	3	1	7
4	3	8	9	7	1	5	6	2

FAITH

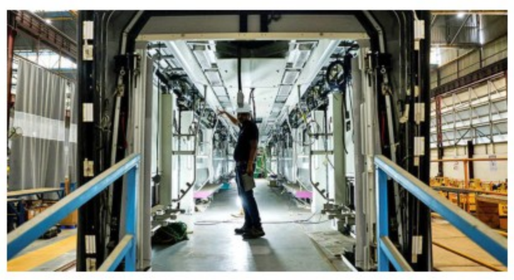
Praise of Mahalakshmi

In his Guna Ratna Kosa, Parasara Bhattar prays for Goddess Mahalakshmi's merciful glances to fall on him, for he has no one else who can offer him protection (*asaranam maam paalaya*).

Parasara shows his affection for Goddess Ranganayaki of Srirangam through Guna Ratna Kosa, said T.A.K. Srinivasacharya in a discourse. In one verse, he says he is afraid to even praise Her, for even his words of praise might hurt Her tender body! He says that when Her attendants look at Her, Her body suffers like a flower exposed to the heat of the sun. The vanamala garland that the Lord wears is Her swing, says Parasara. He is concerned that even these flowers will have an abrasive effect on Her delicate skin. She is Herself a garland on the Lord's chest. Goddess Ranganayaki is beautiful even when She is not wearing ornaments. And when the priests of the temple adorn Her with pearl earrings and pearl necklaces, anklets, a jewel on Her forehead and a girdle, She looks even more charming. The ornaments are like lovely buds and flowers on a creeper.

Parasara Bhattar elaborates on Goddess Mahalakshmi's qualities. Like Lord Narayana, Goddess Mahalakshmi is eternally youthful. She shares many other qualities with Him. She stands by Him in everything. Here one should recall the Ramayana sloka, where Janaka gives Sita in marriage to Rama. Janaka says with reference to Sita – *saha dharamacharee tava*. Here he is assuring Rama that Sita will share in His duties. While Lakshmi and He share the same auspicious qualities, there are some that are special to Her. While She is worshipped by Her devotees, She, in turn, worships the Lord.

INBRIEF



Titagarh bags ₹1,600-crore Mumbai Metro contract

Titagarh Rail Systems Ltd. (TRSL) has received a ₹1,598.55-crore contract for manufacturing 108 coaches for Mumbai Metro, a company official said. TRSL received a Letter of Acceptance (LoA) for the design, manufacture, supply, installation, integration, testing and commissioning of the coaches for Mumbai Metro's Line 6, he said. The contract has been awarded by NCC Ltd., which is executing the project for the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority. PTI

IOC buys U.S., West Asia crude as Trump slams Russian buys

Indian Oil Corp has bought 7 million barrels of crude from the United States, Canada and the Middle East, four trade sources said on Monday, as U.S. President Donald Trump ramped up his criticism of the country over its purchases of Russian oil. Indian government officials denied any policy change. India imported about 1.75 million barrels per day of Russian oil from January to June this year, up 1% from a year ago, according to data from trade sources. REUTERS

P.B. Balaji named JLR CEO, to succeed Adrian Mardell

The Board of Directors of Jaguar Land Rober (JLR), in its meeting on Monday, approved the appointment of P.B. Balaji to succeed Adrian Mardell, as the CEO of JLR, when he retires upon completion of his contract. Mr. Balaji will be joining in this role from November 2025. Mr. Mardell will continue to help with the transition and support until the end of his contract, Tata Motors, the owner of JLR, said in a filing with the stock exchanges.

Mutual fund industry AUM grew sevenfold in 10 years: Study

Asset under management of India's MF industry, as of June 2025, estimated at ₹74.40 lakh crore, says Motilal Oswal Mutual Fund

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

The asset under management (AUM) of India's mutual fund (MF) industry as of June 2025 was estimated at ₹74.40 lakh crore, marking a more than seven-fold growth in 10 years, Motilal Oswal Mutual Fund said in a report.

The report said equity commanded the largest share at 59.94%, followed by debt at 26.53%, hybrid at 8.28%, and other categories accounting for 5.26%.

A steady rise was witnessed in passive investing, which now accounts for about 17% of the total AUM, it added.

"While active funds continue to dominate in absolute terms, the increasing share of passive strategies reflects broader adoption of low-cost, transparent, and benchmark-aligned approaches. In the quarter ended June 2025, total estimated net inflows stood at ₹3,98,000 crore," Motilal Oswal Mutual Fund said.

"This was largely led by the debt segment, which drew ₹2,39,000 crore, reversing the previous quarter's outflows. Equities contributed ₹1,33,000 crore, while commodities added ₹9,000 crore.

Active strategies accounted for ₹3,62,000 crore of total inflows, with passive funds contributing ₹36,000 crore," it added.

Pratik Oswal, Head - Passive Business, Motilal Oswal Asset Management Company Ltd., said, "This quarter reflects a notable shift in portfolio allocation —a growing tilt toward well-diversified, resilient portfolios, complemented by a measured return to debt."

"What's particularly encouraging is the increasing traction seen in passive investing. Indian investors are gradually recognising the structural benefits of passive funds," he added.

Money matters

In the quarter ended June 30, 2025, total estimated net inflows stood at ₹3,98,000 crore

- Debt segment garnered lion's share, drawing ₹2,39,000 cr.
- Equities contributed ₹1,33,000 crore, while commodities added ₹9,000 cr.
- Active funds accounted for ₹3,62,000 cr. of total inflows, passive funds contributed ₹36,000 cr.

'LTIMindtree bags tender for PAN 2.0'

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The government's PAN 2.0 project, which aims to bring onto one platform all the services relating to Permanent Account Numbers (PAN) and Tax Deduction and Collection Account Numbers (TAN), is expected to be made operational in 18 months, according to sources in the Central Board of Direct Taxes.

The bid for the implementation of the project was won by LTI Mindtree at an adjusted bid value of ₹792.5 crore, it has been learnt. "The PAN 2.0 Project of the Income Tax Department which was approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has been awarded to the successful bidder LTIMindtree Limited," said the source who did not wish to be identified.

IPO-bound JSW Cement to stay off battle arena

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

JSW Cement, whose ₹3,600-crore IPO is opening on August 7, is not looking to acquire new businesses, but is set to focus on organic growth, said MD Parth Jindal.

"We don't have the aukat [stature] right now to fight the big boys and I don't want to go to my father for help in this business," said Mr. Parth Jindal, the son of leading industrialist and Chairman of JSW Group Sajjan Jindal.

Explaining further, he said that the firm was not interested in competing with either Ultratech or Adani, currently the top two players in terms of market share in the cement industry.

Acquisition mode

India's cement players have been competing to expand through acquisitions in the industry in the past two years. Adani Group has been eyeing the top spot which is now occupied by Birla-owned Ultratech Cement.

The latter holds 22% of the 637 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) capacity, according to the prospectus of JSW in Fiscal 2024. Adani, with its Ambuja and ACC acquisitions, controls 16% of the capacity.

It has also acquired smaller players like Penna Cement and Orient Cement. Ultratech, too, acquired India Cements and a minority stake in Star Cement.

Parth Jindal

In this context, Mr. Jindal said that the company would not consider acquisitions until they touch a capacity of 42 million tonnes. Currently, the company has a capacity of 20.6 million tonnes, which is 3% of the total capacity in fiscal 2024. "We are working on getting to 10% (market share). Visibility is about 6% to 8%," he said in a media briefing after the announcement to list.

The company is also not looking to enter the South Indian market as Mr. Jindal said he believed that it is "overcrowded and lacks pricing power." JSW plans to stick to expansion in North and Central India.

The company's shares are priced at ₹139 to ₹147 per equity share in lots of 102 shares and multiples thereafter.

The IPO is for ₹1,600 crore of fresh issue and the rest on offer for sale. The company plans to use the proceeds to finance its cement unit in Rajasthan, debt payment and general costs. The bidding closes on August 11.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	81,019	0.52
US Dollar	87.66	-0.55
Gold	98,020	0.40
Brent oil	69.05	—

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2363.60	12.70
Adani Ports	1388.90	41.80
Apollo Hosp	7308.00	-43.50
Asian Paints	2449.80	18.80
Axis Bank	1068.60	6.20
Bajaj Auto	8187.50	143.00
Bajaj Finserv	1933.60	17.30
Bajaj Finance	885.30	9.70
Bharat Elec	389.55	12.35
Bharti Airtel	1914.60	30.20
Cipla	1515.10	12.30
Coal India	374.70	2.20
Dr Reddys Lab	1225.00	4.40
Eicher Motors	5621.00	93.00
Eternal Ltd.	305.25	0.50
Grasim Ind	2787.80	65.60
HCL Tech	1474.40	22.30
HDFC Bank	1992.00	-20.20
HDFC Life	739.80	-1.90
Hero MotoCorp	4535.90	224.30
Hindalco	687.70	15.25
Hind Unilever	2543.70	-10.00
ICICI Bank	1463.20	-8.40
IndusInd Bank	804.05	20.35
Infosys	1480.50	10.90
ITC	416.85	0.40
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	333.90	4.40
JSW Steel	1055.90	28.10
Kotak Bank	1997.00	4.60
L&T	3631.10	43.80
M&M	3200.20	40.90
Maruti Suzuki	12365.00	63.00
NestleIndia	2277.40	0.90
NTPC	332.00	1.10
ONGC	234.83	-1.96
PowerGrid Corp	287.95	-3.30
Reliance Ind	1411.50	17.80
SBI Life	1831.50	35.30
State Bank	795.70	1.70
Shriram Finance Ltd.	624.90	10.70
Sun Pharma	1641.60	11.90
TataConsumerProduct	1072.60	2.20
Tata Motors	653.60	4.75
Tata Steel	159.56	6.55
TCS	3074.40	71.40
Tech Mahindra	1475.00	36.20
Titan	3356.30	40.30
Trent Ltd.	5249.00	69.00
UltraTech Cement	12257.00	144.00
Wipro	246.05	3.30

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 04

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	87.46	87.78
Euro	101.28	101.66
British Pound	116.35	116.77
Japanese Yen (100)	59.44	59.66
Chinese Yuan	12.19	12.23
Swiss Franc	108.44	108.85
Singapore Dollar	67.96	68.22
Canadian Dollar	63.51	63.74
Malaysian Ringitt	20.63	20.73
Australian Dollar	56.73	56.94

Source:Indian Bank

Bharti Airtel unveils subsidiary Xtelify, to sell software tools to foreign telcos

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Bharti Airtel Ltd. on Monday announced a new subsidiary called Xtelify, which the company said, would sell the telco's internal business intelligence and customer relations tools with operators around the world.

In addition to this, Airtel will sell 'sovereign' cloud storage with local data centres to firms who need it due to data localisation regulations.

Gopal Vittal

The integration of Airtel's own systems into the cloud was something that led to Xtelify's formation, Airtel India CEO Gopal Vittal told reporters. The suite would offer telcos the ability to make personalised offers to customers, something Airtel has already been doing, Mr. Vittal said. Xtelify has already tied up with the Singaporean telco Singtel, and Globe, a Filipino operator.

The product would help telcos materially boost their earnings from users, Mr. Vittal said. The "software platform ... will help telcos all around the world rid themselves of underlying complexity, improve customer experience, lower churn and raise Average Revenue Per User," Airtel said in an announcement.

The Airtel Cloud product had a "control plane" that was also in India, Mr. Vittal said.

IN THE HIGH COURT AT CALCUTTA A.P.D.T. 30 of 1997 C.S 551 OF 1987 STATE OF WEST BENGAL -VS- VIKASH TRADING & ORS, the aforesaid appeal will appear on 6th August, 2025; or soon thereafter in terms of the order of the Hon'ble Division Bench, High Court at Calcutta dated 25th June, 2025; when the Respondents are requested to be present in person or through learned advocate.

PARITOSH SINHA,
Advocate-on-Record,
State of West Bengal/Appellant
5, Kiran Shankar Roy Road, 2nd Floor, Kolkata- 700001,
Email: paritoshsinha. aorwb@gmail.com
ICA- N 364(1)/2025

KARNATAKA STATE MEDICAL SUPPLIES CORPORATION LIMITED
No.1, Dr. Siddaiah Puranik Road, KHB Colony, Magadi Road, Bangalore-560079.
Phone: +91-80-29619801, Email: md.ksmscl@gmail.com
No:KSMSCL/DRUGS/TND/25-26 AI/PACKAGE-1/22 DRUGS/22/2025-26 Dt: 04.08.2025
TENDER NOTIFICATION
Ref: Tender Notification No: KSMSCL/DRUGS/TND/25-26 AI/PACKAGE-1/22 DRUGS/22/2025-26, Dated: 04.08.2025 (IND-0265).
Nationwide Tender is invited through **e-Tendering system** under KTPP Act 1999 and Rules 2000 for the following tender:
Tender for the supply of 22 Analgesics, Antipyretics, Nonsteroidal Anti-inflammatory Medicines for various Health Institutions across Karnataka under Annual Indent 2025-26 (IND-0265)
Details regarding EMD, Terms and Conditions and other information are available in Tender Document, which can be downloaded from the website:**https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **04.08.2025.** The eligible tenderers shall submit their e-tenders under e-procurement platform for above mentioned tenders. Further information if any may be obtained from this office.
Sd/-
Managing Director
KSMSCL, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/2192/CCL/2025-26

COTTON BOARD
Government of Kerala
E-TENDER NOTICE
Cotton Board invites e-tender from suppliers **for supply of Cotton Bales to various spinning mills** all over Kerala.
Also invites EOI from cotton suppliers for one time registration
For details visit:
www.etenders.kerala.gov.in, www.bptkerala.in
Last date : 25.08.2025
05.08.2025
Sd/-
Fund Manager, Cotton Board

GOVERNMENT OF RAJASTHAN
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER WATER RESOURCES ZONE BHARATPUR
No. 732 Date: 25.07.2025
E-NIT no- 03/2025-26
On behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan, bids are invited from eligible bidders for the work "Rehabilitation of GMC Chain 1210 to 1750, Construction of Drain from Tail Distributary to Homes canal & lift scheme for depression area in villages Nonera, Pathwari, Sheda, Nagla Dadu, Nagla Chahra etc. District Deeg." Rs 3534.34 Lakh up to 06:00 PM on dated 18.08.2025 and Technical bid will be opened on dated 19.08.2025 at 3:00 PM.
Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state.
UBN no: **WRD2526WLOB00813**
Additional Chief Engineer
Water Resources Zone
Bharatpur
DIPR/C/10645/2025

Kolkata Municipal Corporation
Sustainability, Hygiene and Resilience Project (KMC-SHARP)
E-Tender Notice
INVITATION FOR BIDS Date. 05.08.2025
Kolkata Municipal Corporation represented by **Project Director, KMC-SHARP, 206, A.J.C Bose Road, 2nd Floor, Kolkata - 700 017**, West Bengal, India invites eligible bidders to submit bids online in the e-Tendering platform of the Government of West Bengal **(URL: https://wbtenders.gov.in)** for the Works of :
Development of S&D Network in Adjoining Area of Jadav Ghosh Road in Suti sub basin in Borough XIV & XVI (Part of Ward 126 & 127) including Construction of Keyatala Pumping Station; Contract Package No: KMC-SHARP/OCB/SD09R/2025-26.
Bidders may download the tender document from **https://wbtenders.gov.in**
Bid submission start date (online) : From **09:30 hours** on **04.09.2025**.
Bid submission closing date (online) : Up to **14:30 hours** on **16.09.2025**.

PUNJAB STATE GRAINS PROCUREMENT CORPORATION (PUNGRAIN)
Anaaj Bhawan, Sector-39C, Chandigarh.
NOTICE INVITING REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Request for Proposal is invited for the empanelment of Fortified Rice Kernel (FRK) manufacturers for KMS 2025-26 to supply FRK to Rice Mills in Punjab through Online bids under two bid system. Bids can be submitted till 02:00 PM on 04.09.2025 through **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in.** The Pre-Bid meeting is scheduled on 11.08.2025 at 2:30 PM and the technical bids will be opened on 04.09.2025 at 03:00 PM, both at Conference Hall, Anaaj Bhawan, Sector 39/C, Chandigarh in the presence of prospective bidders who may wish to be present. The terms and conditions and other details are also available on **http://foodsuppb.gov.in.** The date and time of opening of financial bids will be notified online to technically eligible bidders.
Note: Request for Proposal will be accepted through e-procurement portal only. Any further communication will be done through e-tendering site in the form of addendum/corrigendum.
1026/12/2025-26/1920 **MANAGING DIRECTOR, PUNGRAIN**

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Rajajinagara Division, Sir|| M.Vishweshwaraiah Commercial Complex, 12th Main Road, 2nd Block, Rajajinagara, Bengaluru - 10.
No: EE/RNR/Kppp/07/2025-26 **Date: 04.08.2025**
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIICATION
(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)
Tenders for the following works on Item rate are invited as **Standard Bid Documents KW-4** by the Executive Engineer, Rajajinagara Division BBMP from the registered contractors of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or Equivalent registration with CPWD/KPWD/Railways/MES or any State Government Organizations.

Sl No.	Name of the Approved Works
1.	Comprehensive Development of Roads, Drains, Culverts and Other allied Works in Surrounding area of Ramakrishna Sevanagara Block No.52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57/1, 57/2, 58/1, 58/2, 59, 64, Srirampura Block No.18, 19/1, 20, 27, 28, 29 Errappa Block No.1, 2, 3, 4 in Ward No-129 & Block No.59 in Chamundinagara Ward No-130 Sriramamandira. **Estimated Cost: ₹.300.00 Lakhs, EMD Amount: ₹.1.00 Lakhs (₹.3.50 Lakhs online plus Remaining Balance BG/FDR)**
2.	Comprehensive Development of Roads, Drains, Culverts and Other allied Works to Indiranagara area Block No. 16/2 & Karekalu area Block No.10 & Sriramanagara Block No.36/1, 36/2 in Rajajinagara Constituency **Estimated Cost: ₹.300.00 Lakhs, EMD Amount: ₹.1.00 Lakhs (₹.3.50 Lakhs online plus Remaining Balance BG/FDR)**
3.	Comprehensive Development of Roads, Drains, Culverts, Footpath and Other allied Works in Surrounding area of Srirampura Block No.18, 19/1, 20, 27, 28, 29 Errappa Block No.1, 2, 3, 4 and Dayanadanagara 1st Cross to 7th Cross in Ward No-129 **Estimated Cost: ₹.300.00 Lakhs, EMD Amount: ₹.1.00 Lakhs (₹.3.50 Lakhs online plus Remaining Balance BG/FDR)**

Calendar of Events: (1) Last date for Receipt of Queries upto **14.08.2025** at **4:00** pm. (2) Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on **12.08.2025** at **3:30** pm. (3) Tender documents may be downloaded through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal from **06.08.2025** from **4:00** pm. (4) Last Date for uploading the Filled proposals **19.08.2025** upto **4:00** pm. (5) Date of Opening of Technical Proposals is **20.08.2025** at **4:00** pm. (6) Date of Opening of Financial Proposals after approval of Technical proposals through KPPP.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Rajajinagara Division

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer (QA/QC) Division, Mahadevapura Zone, Room No. 101, Annex-3 Building, BBMP, N.R. Square, Bangalore - 560 002.
No.EE(QA/QC)/MDP/TEND/08/25-26/Call-2 **Date:04.08.2025**
SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK KP-Procurement Portal only) (Two Cover System) (CALL-2)
The Executive Engineer, QA/QC Division, Mahadevapura Zone, invites Request for Proposal from interested persons/firms those who have done similar type of works for Consultancy Services for Project Management including Supervision, Quality Control (PMC) for the works detailed in the table below:

Sl. No.	Name of Work
1	Providing PMC Services including Supervision, Quality control for "Improvements to Roads & Drains in K. Channasandra Khane Road, Pooja Garden, Kalkere Village, NRI Layout Double Road in Ward No. 88-Kalkere and Shanthi Layout Main Road and cross Road in Ward No. 90, R.M. Nagar (Call-2). Project Cost: **Rs. 400.00 Lakhs.** EMD : **Rs. 8,500/-**

1) Tender documents may be downloaded from website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 06.08.2025 onwards. 2)** Pre bid Meeting: **11.08.2025 at 11:30 AM. 3)** Last date for submission of Tender: **18.08.2025 upto 4:00 PM. 4)** Opening of Technical bid: **19.08.2025 at 4:30 PM.** Further details can be obtained from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and office of the Undersigned.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, QA / QC Division, Mahadevapura Zone.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of Health Officer (East), 9th Floor, P.U. Building, M.G.Road, Bengaluru-01
No: HO(East)/PR/1590/2024-25. **Date: 31/07/2025**
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) SCHEDULE
Request For Proposal For Collection, Transporatation and Disposal of Bio-medical Waste Generated In BBMP Primary Health Care Centers of (East Zone) By Interestel KSPCB Authorized CWBMTF's.

RFP Reference No	**BBMP/2024-25/SE.**
Date of Commencement of Download of RFP Document from Karnataka Public Procurement portal **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**	**From 02/08/25 onwards**
Last Date and Time for uploading Online Queries' in Karnataka Public Procurement portal	**up to 07/08/25 5:00 PM**
Date and Time of Pre-bid Meeting	**07/08/25 at 11:00 AM** at the following Venue: 10th floor, P.U Building, M.G Road, Bangalore-560001.
Last Date and Time for uploading of RFP in Karnataka Public Procurement portal	**up to 18/08/25 5:00 PM**
Date and Time of Online Opening of RFP Applications in Karnataka Public Procurement portal	**20/08/25 5:10 PM**
Place of Opening of RFP Applications	Online at Karnataka public Procurement portal
Address for Communication	Health Officer (EAST), 9th floor, PU Building, MG Road, Bangalore-01.

Only Online Queries through e-Procurement portal will be accepted. Queries sent through letters, emails or any other mode will not be entertained.
Sd/- Health Officer (East) ,BBMP.

A BG-BGE

KHARTOUM

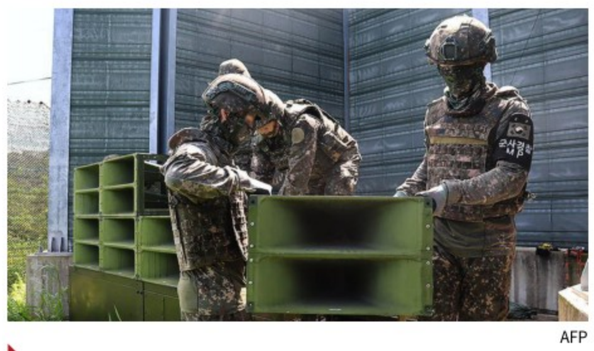
Sudan paramilitaries kill 14 civilians fleeing besieged city

AP

Sudanese paramilitary fighters killed 14 civilians trying to flee a besieged city in Darfur, a rights group said on Monday. The attack in a village on the outskirts of El-Fasher came two days after the administration — installed by the paramilitary RSF — asked civilians to evacuate the besieged city and promised they would be safe. AFP

SEOUL

S. Korea removes loudspeakers on its border with the North



AFP

South Korea said on Monday it was removing loudspeakers used to blare K-pop and news reports to the North, as Seoul tries to ease tensions with its neighbour. The nations, still technically at war, had halted propaganda broadcasts along the border, Seoul's military said in June after the election of President Lee Jae Myung. AFP

KABUL

Afghanistan has its 'sharpest surge' ever of child malnutrition, says UN

AFP

Afghanistan is seeing its sharpest-ever surge of child malnutrition, the World Food Program said on Monday, adding it needed $539 million to help the country's most vulnerable families. Almost 10 million people, a quarter of Afghanistan's population, face acute food insecurity. One in three children is stunted. AP

TEHRAN

Iran sets up new Supreme National Defence Council after Israeli strike

AP

Iran founded a new defence council after attacks in June by Israel and the U.S., Iranian state media reported on Monday. Iran's Supreme National Security Council, the country's highest security body, made the decision to establish the Supreme National Defence Council, which will be headed by President Masoud Pezeshkian. AP

BNP to oppose July Proclamation if it is against Bangladesh constitution

The party says that though the government consulted various stakeholders before going ahead with the announcement of Charter, it should not go against the 1972 constitution of the country which is based on the sacrifices of 1971 Liberation War

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

The July Proclamation that is being planned on the anniversary of the anti-government uprising on Tuesday in Dhaka will be opposed if it goes against the constitution of Bangladesh, said a senior leader of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) on Monday.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, General Secretary of BNP, Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, said the interim government has consulted various stakeholders before going ahead with the planned announcement of the July Charter on Tuesday. However, he cautioned that the charter should not go against the 1972 constitution of Bangladesh which is based on the sacrifices of 1971 Liberation War.

Mixed opinions: Student-activists had said in December 2024 that they would use the Charter to 'bury' the constitution. REUTERS

"The interim government sent us a draft of the July Proclamation some weeks ago. We did not find anything objectionable in that draft but we do not know what will be the exact draft of the proclamation that will be launched on 5 August. If we find that the proclamation goes against our existing constitution, then we will oppose it," Mr. Alamgir said ahead of Tuesday's launch.

Mr. Alamgir's remarks came hours after the interim government said that Chief Adviser Prof. Mohammed Yunus will announce the July Proclamation at 5 p.m. on Tuesday at the southern plaza of the Jatiyo Sansad – parliament of Bangladesh.

The July Proclamation came into focus in December 2024 when the student-activists, part of the core support groups of the interim government, announced that they wanted to use the July Proclamation to 'bury' the 1972 constitution. The attempt of the student activists was however not successful and the interim government stepped in and decided to carry forward the idea of the proclamation. In his Id speech on June 6, Mr. Yunus revived the plan saying the text of the proclamation had been agreed upon by "all parties".

Strategic autonomy is alive; neoliberalism is dead: India's takeaways from Trump era

NEWS ANALYSIS

Varghese K. George

Donald J. Trump can be brutally forthright and publicly so. It is partly innate and partly a strategy to throw his interlocutors off balance. In a 1989 interview on *CNN*'s *Larry King Live*, Mr. Trump was asked by the host about his strategies for gaining an edge in negotiations. Mr. Trump responded not with a direct answer, but with a startling personal comment: "Can I move my chair? Because your breath is very bad. It really is... Has this ever been told to you before?" Years later, Mr. Trump explained that it was a demonstration of his negotiation tactics.

Donald Trump

Mr. Trump's outspokenness can be unsettling, but it can also be helpful. There are a few valuable lessons that Indian strategy could learn, thanks to the manner in which Mr. Trump conducts U.S. diplomacy.

Key elements of his worldview have largely remained consistent for decades. Even before he made an entry into politics, Mr. Trump was anti-trade, anti-war, cognisant of the economic and social challenges within the American society. He is trying to turn all those beliefs into policies. All countries are scurrying to reposition themselves.

The idea that India's hesitation to go into a complete strategic lock-in with the U.S. and to completely open its market is hindering progress in bilateral ties is commonplace because its proponents are influential. India, whether under Jawaharlal Nehru or Narendra Modi, has been reluctant to do either of these, and strategic autonomy has held the country in good stead. For one, alliances are not insulated from shifts in U.S. priorities over time, Trump or not. To cite one example, when Joe Biden was President, Australia scrapped a $90 billion deal with France to build conventional diesel-electric submarines. Instead, it entered the AUKUS pact with the U.S. and the U.K. to acquire nuclear-powered submarines using the U.S. technology.

All within the family, but hanging France out to dry. Mr. Trump, who is often portrayed as hostile to U.S. allies, is saying it all too loud.

India's choice

Amid Mr. Trump's rhetoric, India could be further incentivised to reinforce the idea of strategic autonomy, which remains the most viable framework for sustaining a robust relationship with the U.S. The Modi government has, in practice, followed the path of strategic autonomy. Both strategic autonomy and strategic subservience carry costs. India appears increasingly prepared to bear the cost of autonomy – rather than of subservience. Turning into a frontline of any U.S. strategy for containment of another country or expansion of its own interest can be fatal – ask Ukraine. If there was any doubt about strategic autonomy, the Trump moment has clarified it.

Mr. Trump wants to restore manufacturing and jobs in the U.S. and has, in the process, unsettled global trade. Access to its market has been a lever of American power for long, and Mr. Trump is just blunt about it. A trade deal may resolve some immediate issues, but India cannot ignore the reality that in a world where every country has turned protectionist, export-driven growth is a narrow and difficult path.

Ties with the U.S.

The Trump moment tells India two things – strategic autonomy is alive; and neoliberalism is dead. India has to navigate the path ahead, and the U.S. remains a key partner in that. It is reasonable to assume that the U.S. will remain the most powerful state for several decades to come. Ties with the U.S. will continue to be a major determinant of India's capacity to realise its ambitions. Neither obsequiousness nor confrontation can advance India's relations with the U.S. India should also learn that soft power is supposed to be soft, not loud and screeching. As the yoga teacher would say, pranayama practice should not make any sound.

Senior Israeli officials urge Trump to help end Gaza war

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

Hundreds of retired Israeli security officials, including former heads of intelligence agencies, have urged U.S. President Donald Trump to pressure their own government to end the war in Gaza. "It is our professional judgement that Hamas no longer poses a strategic threat to Israel," the former officials wrote. "When we achieved all military objectives, this war ceased to be a just war," said Ami Ayalon, former director of the Shin Bet security service.

Be very cautious with nuclear rhetoric, says Russia in reply to Trump's remarks

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

Russia called for caution on Monday after U.S. President Donald Trump said he would deploy two nuclear submarines following an online row with former Russian President Dmitry Medvedev.

Mr. Trump said he had ordered the deployment in response to what he alleged were highly provocative comments by Mr. Medvedev, saying the submarines would be positioned in "appropriate regions".

"Russia is very attentive to the topic of nuclear non-proliferation. And we believe that everyone should be very, very cautious with nuclear rhetoric," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters on Monday.

Escalation game: The U.S. President ordered the deployment of two nuclear submarines following a row with Dmitry Medvedev. AFP

The row between Mr. Medvedev and Mr. Trump erupted against the backdrop of the U.S. leader's ultimatum for Russia to end its military offensive in Ukraine or face fresh economic sanctions.

Mr. Medvedev – one of Russia's most prominent anti-Western hawks – accused Mr. Trump of "playing the ultimatum game" and said that Mr. Trump "should remember" that Russia was a formidable force. "Each new ultimatum is a threat and a step towards war. Not between Russia and Ukraine, but with his own country," he said.

The chief of staff to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Monday backed Mr. Trump's actions. "The concept of peace through strength works," Andriy Yermak wrote on social media.

Sport

Grand double for Ishaan, Shonal, Rivaan and Shiv

Champions all! The winners in various categories, standing from left, Shonal, Rivaan, and Shiv Tummala. Sitting: Ishaan.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

MOTORSPORTS

Sports Bureau

Ishaan Madesh, a seven-time National champion across various categories, held off his sibling Rohaan in both the Pre-Finals and Finals in the Senior Max class for a grand double in the second round of the MECO-FMSCI National Karting Championship Rotax Max Classes at the CoASTT circuit in Coimbatore on Sunday.

Shonal Kunimal from Kozhikode (Birel Art India) and Pune's Arafat Sheikh (Crest Motorsports) won the Finals and the Pre-Finals respectively in the Junior Max category.

Expectedly, Chennai's Rivaan Dev Preetham (MSPORT) dominated the newly introduced Mini Max category, winning both the Finals and the Pre-Finals to complete a double, as did Shiv Tummala from Bengaluru (Peregrine Racing), who was an equally facile winner in the Micro Max class, where he comfortably held off his rivals.

The results (provisional):
Senior Max:
Finals (20 laps): 1. Ishaan Madesh (Peregrine Racing) 15mins, 06.320s, 2. Arjun Vijay Chheda (Crest Motorsports) 15:14.080, 3. Rohaan Madesh (Peregrine Racing) 15:15.424.
Pre-Finals (15 laps): 1. Ishaan 11:24.689, 2. Rohaan 11:34.956, 3. Laksh Manish Bafna (Kart Crew Motorsports) 11:35.157.
Junior Max:
Finals (18 laps): 1. Shonal Kunimal (Birel Art India) 13:51.050, 2. Eshanth Vengatesan (MSPORT) 13:53.974, 3. B. Kumar Gowda (Rayo Racing) 14:04.270.
Pre-Finals (16 laps): 1. Arafath Sheikh (Crest Motorsports) 12:04.909, 2. Hridaan Sanadhya (Crest Motorsports) 12,21.680, 3. Shonal 12:24.750.
Mini Max: Finals (16 laps): 1. Rivaan Dev Preetham (MSPORT) 12:31.339, 2. Hamza Balasinorwala (Crest Motorsports) 12:35.028, 3. Yatharth Gaur (Leapfrog Racing) 12:35.630.
Pre-Finals (14 laps): 1. Rivaan 10:59.312, 2. Yatharth 11:04.510, 3. Danish Dalmiya (Rayo Racing) 11:14.365.
Micro Max: Finals (13 laps): 1. Shiv Tummala (Peregrine Racing) 10:34.726, 2. Zidaan Arshaan Anees (Peregrine Racing) 10:39.957, 3. Aarav Surekha (Rayo Racing) 10:40.030.
Pre-Finals (12 laps): 1. Shiv Tummala 09:43.943, 2. Zidaan 09:47.055, 3. Aarav 09:54.239.

LIVE TELECAST

Football: Durand Cup, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 4 & 7 p.m.

Imperia obliges in Royal Revive Plate

RACING

HYDERABAD: Trainer Ananta Vatsalya's filly Imperia, ridden by P. Ajeeth Kumar, won the Royal Revive Plate, the chief event of Monday's (Aug. 4) races.

The winner is owned by M/s. Kapil Agrawal & Shailendra Singh. The last race of the day was cancelled due to rain.

1. SULTAN PHEROZE PLATE (DIV. I) (1,200M): STAR OF OPERA (Mukesh Kumar) 1, Gusto's Baby (Akshay K) 2, Whistledown (Ashad Asbar) 3 and Suryavanshi (Surya Prakash) 4. 6-1/2, 8-1/4 and Neck. 1m, 14.22s. ₹15 (w), 10, 11 and 15 (p). SHP: 23, THP: 39, SHW: 10 and 19, FP: 28, Q: 18, Tanala: 151. Favourite: Star Of Opera.

Owners: Mr. Rajendran rep. Rapar's Galloping Stars LLP, Mr. Suchit Jayraj Shah & Mr. Prabhakar Chowdary Tripuraneni. Trainer: D. Netto.

2. PALAMPET PLATE (DIV. I) (1,100M): DUBAI TOUCH (Neeraj Rawal) 1, Blazing Saddle (Ajay K) 2, Dontblockmyway (Vivek G) 3 and Sunny Day (P. Ajeeth K) 4. 5-3/4, 1-1/4 and 2-1/2. 1m, 7.72s. ₹13 (w), 12, 86 and 17 (p). SHP: 220, THP: 36, SHW: 13 and 62, FP: 276, Q: 236, Tanala: 1,286. Favourite: Dubai Touch. Owners: Mr. N. Shyam Sunder, Mr. Anil Viswanatha Poduval & Mr. Vara Prasad Reddy. Trainer: N. Rawal.

3. SULTAN PHEROZE PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200M): TURIYA (Akshay Kumar) 1, Bestie (Md. Ekram) 2, Moonlite Rose (Vivek G) 3 and Infinia (Ashad Asbar) 4. Not run: Beast Master. 8-1/4, 3-1/4 and 2. 1m, 13.21s. ₹14 (w), 12, 15 and 12 (p). SHP: 41, THP: 41, SHW: 10 and 31, FP; 60, Q: 58, Tanala: 122. Favourite: Turiya.

Owner: Mr. Shantanu Sharma. Trainer: Bharat Singh.

4. THREE WISHES PLATE (DIV. I) (1,400M): GOLDEN INZIO (Ajay Kumar) 1, Exponent (Nakhat) 2, Deccan Ranger (Shivansh) 3 and Politics (G. Naresh) 4. Not run: Balahaka. 2-3/4, 2-3/4 and 2. 1m, 30.86s. ₹30 (w), 11, 17 and 28 (p). SHP: 39, THP: 78, SHW: 23 and 29, FP: 216, Q: 94, Tanala: 1,025. Favourite: Always Special. Owners: Mr. Manish Jaiswal, Mrs. Candida Tania Jaiswal, Mr. Tulasiram Kaskana & Mr. C.S. Suresh. Trainer: S. Sreekant.

5. P.G. REDDY MEMORIAL CUP (1,600M): GLORIA (A. Ashad Asbar) 1, Corte Madera (Neeraj) 2, Dapper Look (R.S. Jodha) 3 and China Town (P. Ajeeth K) 4. Neck, 3/4 and 1-1/2. 1m, 40.41s. ₹41 (w), 12, 10 and 10 (p). SHP: 31, THP: 37, SHW: 25 and 10, FP: 97, Q: 28, Tanala: 180. Favourite: Corte Madera. Owners: Mr. Aditya P. Thackersey & Col. S.B. Nair. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

6. PALAMPET PLATE (DIV. II) (1,100M): PACIFIC HEIGHTS (Vivek G) 1, Zuza (Ashad Asbar) 2, Sadiya (Kuldeep Jr.) 3 and Bold Beauty (Santosh Raj) 4. 8-1/2, Short Head and 1-1/4. 1m, 7.58s. ₹14 (w), 11, 16 and 38 (p). SHP: 20, THP: 85, SHW: 15 and 14, FP: 24, Q: 20, Tanala: 452. Favourite: Pacific Heights.

Owner: Mr. M. Ramakrishna Reddy. Trainer: L. D'Silva.

7. BASARA CUP (1,400M): WALKING THUNDER (A. Ashad Asbar) 1, N R I Triple Power (Varun) 2, Hawk King (G. Naresh) 3 and Calabasas (Md. Ekram) 4. Not run: Secret Option. 4, 5-1/2 and 3-1/2. 1m, 27.62s. ₹14 (w), 12,13 and 47 (p). SHP: 24, THP: 99, SHW: 10 and 21, FP: 37, Q: 20, Tanala: 337. Favourite: Walking Thunder.

Owner: Mr. Aditya P. Thackersey. Trainer: L.V.R. Deshmukh.

8. ROYAL REVIVE PLATE (1,400M): IMPERIA (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 1, Darling's Boy (Sonu K) 2, Annhilator (Kuldeep Sr.) 3 and Decoy (Mukesh K) 4. Not run: D Minchu. 3/4, 2 and Neck. 1m, 29.04s. ₹20 (w), 11, 39 and 16 (p). SHP: 128, THP: 58, SHW: 14 and 72, FP: 471, Q: 278, Tanala: 1,494. Favourite: Imperia.

Owners: M/s. Kapil Agrawal & Shailendra Singh. Trainer: Ananta Vatsalya.

Jackpot: (i) 70%:₹ 1,421 (80 tkts.) & 30%: 91 (532 tkts.); (ii) 70%: 429 (1,965 tkts.).

Mini Jackpot: (i) 1,334 (164 tkts.), (ii) 41 (2,573 tkts.).

Treble: (i) 140 (214 tkts.), (ii) 288 (76 tkts.), (iii) 25 (1,895 tkts.).

CLOSELY CONTESTED

It's been toe-to-toe for 25 days... the 2-2 result is probably fair: Stokes

PTI

The series as a whole was just all games going to five days. It's been toe-to-toe for 25 days and two very good teams who have thrown everything at each other and leaving nothing out there. I guess from a cricket fan's point of view 2-2 is probably fair — England Test captain Ben Stokes after India's six-run win at The Oval.

SWEET SUCCESS

Team India registers its narrowest victory in Test history

GETTY IMAGES

India scripted its narrowest victory in Test history in terms of runs after beating England in the fifth and final Test at The Oval on Monday. The six-run triumph was also the first time the team registered a Test win by a single digit margin. The 13-run victory over Australia in Mumbai in 2004 was its previous narrowest win.

DREAM DUO

Bowlers like Siraj and Prasidh make captaincy look easy: Gill

GETTY IMAGES

Mohammed Siraj is a captain's dream. Gave it his all every ball and every spell he bowled. Two-all is a fair reflection. It shows how passionate both teams were. When you have bowlers like Siraj and Prasidh (Krishna), captaincy looks easy. I think the way we responded today [Monday] was magnificent — Shubman Gill.

CONFIDENT

Didn't stop believing even when Root and Brook were batting: Gill

GETTY IMAGES

The way Harry Brook and Joe Root were going, not many teams in the world would have given themselves a chance. But this Indian team believes that whenever we have some kind of an opening, we can get through that opening — India captain Shubman Gill about the team's indomitable spirit.

Siraj scripts redemption tale as India levels series

The pacer makes amends for dropping centurion Brook by producing a magical spell as Gill's men hold their nerve on the final day; Prasidh chips in with a four-for to complete an epic victory

INDIA IN ENGLAND

Shayan Acharya
LONDON

Mohammed Siraj couldn't hold back his tears as Dhruv Jurel ran in and hugged him. Shubman Gill stood quietly for a moment, looking up at the sky, before the teammates rushed towards him to celebrate. Prasidh Krishna waved towards the packed stands as the tricolour fluttered high.

Monday morning at The Oval felt surreal.

India came from behind to pull off a dramatic six-run win against England in the fifth Test and level the series 2-2.

In the Bazball era, not many pinned hopes on a young Indian team when the series got underway, but Shubman Gill's men showed plenty of steel. And, the final day of the series was no different as the Indian bowlers, spearheaded by Siraj, delivered a performance for the ages.

Siraj, ignoring workload management calls and not making a fuss about the quick turnaround time between the fixtures, got the ball to swing amidst a drizzle. He picked up three wickets in a challenging spell with the old ball and, riding on his five-wicket haul, India pulled off a famous win.

In pursuit of a massive 374, England needed 35 on the final day with four wickets in hand. There was also a chance for the hosts to win a Test series against India for the first time since its 4-1 triumph at home in 2018.

But with Siraj and Prasidh operating in tandem, England's lower-order looked jittery and as the Indian fans cheered for their team, the visitors did everything possible to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat.

Quick strikes

In fine rhythm, Siraj nicked off Jamie Smith before trapping Jamie Overton, who started off the day with a couple of boundaries, leg-before. The pressure grew further as Prasidh castled Josh Tongue shortly.

England had to struggle for every run, but with Gus Atkinson hanging in there and Chris Woakes, walking out to bat with his left arm in a sling and bringing back memories of 41 years ago when the late Malcolm Marshall batted with one hand, there was still a slim chance.

Perfect yorker

But, in the end, Siraj's tenacity prevailed over England's valiant fight as his perfect yorker rattled Atkinson's off-stump. It was also redemption for Siraj as he had dropped centurion Harry Brook on 19 on day four of the Test.

The last time all games in a five-Test series went to the final day was in 2017-18 during the Ashes in Australia. And, the inaugural edition of the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy will forever be remembered for the fierce competitiveness between the two teams despite a spate of injuries, and of course, for being an absolutely perfect advertisement for the game's longest format.

There were initial apprehension about India's chances, but with the players giving it their all, it, indeed, was a series to savour.

Escape to victory

Every delivery was an event at The Oval on Monday. A ball-by-ball account:

England began the final day at 339 for six in 76.2 overs, needing 35 runs with four wickets in hand

BOWLER	OVER NO.	THE OVER	SCORE
Prasidh	77	4 | 4 | 0 | 0	347/6
Siraj	78	0 | 0 | **W** | 0 | 0 | 2	349/7
Prasidh	79	0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3	353/7
Siraj	80	0 | 0 | 0 | 1lb | **W** | 0	354/8
Prasidh	81	0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0	355/8
Siraj	82	1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0	356/8
Prasidh	83	0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | **W**	357/9
Siraj	84	0 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1b	364/9
Prasidh	85	2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1	367/9
Siraj	86	**W**	367

SCOREBOARD

INDIA — 1ST INNINGS
224 in 69.4 overs
ENGLAND — 1ST INNINGS
247 in 51.2 overs
INDIA — 2ND INNINGS
396 in 88 overs
ENGLAND — 2ND INNINGS
Target 374

Zak Crawley b Siraj 14 *(36b, 2x4)*, Ben Duckett c Rahul b Prasidh 54 *(83b, 6x4)*, Ollie Pope lbw b Siraj 27 *(34b, 5x4)*, Joe Root c Jurel b Prasidh 105 *(152b, 12x4)*, Harry Brook c Siraj b Akash 111 *(98b, 14x4, 2x6)*, Jacob Bethell b Prasidh 5 *(31b, 1x4)*, Jamie Smith c Jurel b Siraj 2 *(20b)*, Jamie Overton lbw b Siraj 9 *(17b, 2x4)*, Gus Atkinson b Siraj 17 *(29b, 1x6)*, Josh Tongue b Prasidh 0 *(12b)*, Chris Woakes (not out) 0 *(0b)*; Extras (b-2, lb-9, nb-1, w-11): 23; Total (in 85.1 overs): 367.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-50 (Crawley, 13.5 overs), 2-82 (Duckett, 22.4), 3-106 (Pope, 27.3), 4-301 (Brook, 62.4), 5-332 (Bethell, 70.4), 6-337 (Root, 72.6), 7-347 (Smith, 77.3), 8-354 (Overton, 79.5), 9-357 (Tongue, 82.6).

INDIA BOWLING
Akash 20-4-85-1, Prasidh 27-3-126-4, Siraj 30.1-6-104-5, Washington 4-0-19-0, Jadeja 4-0-22-0.

India won by six runs, five-match series drawn 2-2.
Player-of-the-Match: Siraj.
Player-of-the-Series: India: Gill; **England:** Brook.

The final nail: Siraj castles Atkinson to seal one of India's finest Test wins. GETTY IMAGES

The most rewarding format: Gill

Shayan Acharya
LONDON

As Shubman Gill's first assignment as India's Test captain turned out to be a memorable one with his team coming from behind to level the series against England, the skipper made it clear that there should not be any changes to the longest format of the game.

"I think Test cricket should be as it is. In my opinion, it is the most rewarding and satisfying format. You work the hardest to be able to get a win and the best thing about this format is that it always gives you a second chance, which none of the other formats give," Gill said on Monday after India won the fifth and final Test of the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy.

"So, if you keep working hard, if you keep doing the right things, there is always a second chance...," he said.

After losing the opening fixture in Leeds, India won the second Test in Birmingham, before going down at Lord's in the third.

However, a draw in Manchester meant the series wasn't over.

And with a bunch of youngsters giving it their all, India created history at The Oval, beating England by six wickets.

Before the series got underway, the right-hander said that he wouldn't let captaincy affect his batting.

He kept his word with 754 runs in the series, including a double hundred and three hundreds.

As a leader, he had to take care of the mental health of the players and that helped him.

"If you think too much about others, your own pressure goes away. You are always thinking about someone else. Even in captaincy or when I was batting, I felt that. Because, thinking about others, I didn't feel much pressure on myself," he said.

"I was always thinking about what I can do for the team. How can I help a person who is feeling low? So all of these things helped me to be able to take pressure from myself..."

All square at The Oval: India staged a stunning comeback to draw the series on a gripping final day which saw Woakes braving injury in an attempt to deny Gill & Co. AFP, GETTY IMAGES

Test cricket... absolute goosebumps

We'll win some, we'll lose some... but we'll never surrender! Well done, boys!
GAUTAM GAMBHIR

Test cricket... absolute goosebumps. Series 2–2, Performance 10/10! Supermen from India! What a win!
SACHIN TENDULKAR

What a series! Stunning performance from Siraj and Prasidh who held their nerve. Congratulations to Gill and the team for a great series
ANIL KUMBLE

Exceptional series from Jadeja, Washington, Pant... so much consistency from this young team
SOURAV GANGULY

Resilience and determination from Siraj and Prasidh has given us this phenomenal victory. Special mention to Siraj who will put everything on the line for the team
VIRAT KOHLI

I bowl every ball for the country, not for myself: Siraj

Shayan Acharya
LONDON

Mohammed Siraj woke up at six in the morning on Monday, took out his phone and searched on the internet for a wallpaper with the word 'believe' written on it.

The first thing that he came across was a picture of Cristiano Ronaldo in the Manchester United colours. And for the next few minutes, he looked at the picture and muttered the word 'believe' at least a couple of times.

Once the picture made it to his wallpaper, Siraj kept looking at it until reaching The Oval. "I usually wake up at eight, but today, I got up early. So I Googled this picture and downloaded it, because I knew I could do it for my country. It's important to believe in yourself," he said, after claiming a five-for and guiding India to an incredible six-run win in the fifth Test.

With Jasprit Bumrah featuring in just three Tests to manage his workload, Siraj stepped up and backed himself to carry out the role of the senior pacer. Not making a fuss about workload or a quick turnaround time, Siraj bowled 185.3 overs in the series – 1,113 deliveries to be specific – and finished as the leading wicket-taker of the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy with 23 scalps.

"To be honest, my body is fine right now. It has been almost 186 overs in this series. But when you play for your country you give everything and you don't think about whether you bowled six overs or nine overs. I believe that I bowl every ball for the country and not for myself," Siraj said, adding with a smile: "You play for the country and give your everything, the rest is not in your control."

Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy in numbers

BATTING	M	Inns	Runs	HS	Avg	100s/50s
Gill	**5**	**10**	**754**	**269**	**75.40**	**4/0**
Root	5	9	537	150	67.12	3/1
Rahul	5	10	532	137	53.20	2/2
Jadeja	5	10	516	107*	86.00	1/5
Brook	5	9	481	158	53.44	2/2
BOWLING	**M**	**Inns**	**Wkts**	**BBI**	**SR**	**5WI**
Siraj	**5**	**9**	**23**	**6/70**	**48.39**	**2**
Tongue	3	6	19	5/125	40.10	1
Stokes	4	8	17	5/72	49.41	1
Bumrah	3	5	14	5/74	51.28	2
Prasidh	3	6	14	4/62	45.00	0

HOW THE SERIES PANNED OUT

1st Test: England won by five wickets, Headingley
2nd Test: India won by 336 runs, Edgbaston
3rd Test: England won by 22 runs, Lord's
4th Test: Drawn, Old Trafford
5th Test: India won by six runs, The Oval

INBRIEF

Farhan-Ayub stand propels Pakistan to series win

Pakistan defeated the West Indies by 13 runs in the third T20I at Lauderhill on Sunday to clinch the series 2-1. West Indies' Roston Chase became the first player to get retired out during a men's T20I featuring two Full Member teams.

The scores: Pakistan 189/4 in 20 overs (Farhan 74, Ayub 66) bt West Indies 176/6 in 20 overs (Athanaze 60, Rutherford 51).
Toss: Pakistan; **PoM**: Farhan; **PoS:** Nawaz.

Bagan cruises past BSF; Real Kashmir posts win

Mohun Bagan Super Giant scored a 4-0 win over Border Security Force FC in the Durand Cup in Kolkata on Monday. Real Kashmir FC edged local challenger TRAU FC 2-1.

The results: Group-B: Mohun Bagan 4 (Manvir 24, Colaco 53, 58, Samad 61) bt BSF FC 0. **Group F:** Real Kashmir 2 (Tareck 24, Rohen 64) bt TRAU 1 (Buyamayum 26).

Priya scalps four as Lioness posts win

Priya Chavan's four-wicket haul (4/27) helped Shivamogga Lioness beat Hubli Tigers by 15 runs in the inaugural KSCA Maharani Trophy in Bengaluru on Monday.

The scores: Shivamogga Lioness 126/6 in 20 overs (Advika 44, Priya Chavan 4/27) bt Hubli Tigers 111/5 in 20 overs (Nandani Chauhan 34 n.o., Annapurna Bhosale 39 n.o.).

Kalyani Bengaluru Blasters 102/9 in 20 overs (Reethu R. Gowda 3/17) lost to Mangaluru Dragons 106/4 in 17.4 overs (P. Saloni 32 n.o., Karnika Karthick 32 n.o.).

Former hockey coach Aswath passes away

Former hockey coach C.U. Aswath passed away in Bengaluru on Monday. He was 65.
Aswath was attached with SAI Training Centre Bengaluru for over two decades, and coached SAI STC team into a formidable outfit in South India. Many top players from Karnataka in the 1990s and 2000s, who made a name for themselves, were under him.

Kerala visit off for Messi-led Argentina team

Argentina's football team, led by Lionel Messi, will not visit Kerala, state Sports Minister V. Abdurahiman said on Monday. He said the team was facing difficulties in visiting the state in October.

Budhilal leads India's strong showing on day one

He says the waves weren't as consistent as the team had hoped; Kishore (12.17) and Srikanth (13.70) also advance to the next round; the host will aim to carry this momentum into the next rounds

SURFING

Tarun Shastry
CHENNAI

Ramesh Budihal led India's charge on the opening day of the Fourth Asian Surfing Championships 2025, held at the iconic point break in Mamallapuram here on Monday.

Budihal posted an impressive 12.33 points, winning his heat by 4.93 points, and cruised comfortably into Round Three.

He was joined by fellow Indians Kishore Kumar, who scored 12.17 (winning by 3.77 points), and D. Srikanth, who advanced with a solid 13.70 (winning margin: 1.44).

Reflecting on his performance and the day's wave conditions, Budihal said: "I was really disappointed last year – not being part of the Championships hit hard. But this year, I set clear goals and worked hard to reach them."

Poise: Budihal posted an impressive 12.33 points. R. RAGU

"Today, the waves weren't as consistent as we'd hoped. A week ago, we had a great swell, but now it's dropped. Still, the conditions were decent – just not predictable. In a heat, you have to adapt and surf with whatever comes your way. I'm happy I made it through," Budihal added.

Team India will aim to carry this momentum into the next rounds, eyeing a strong finish in what promises to be a high-stakes week of competition.

AIFF to meet ISL club CEOs; Bengaluru FC holds back salaries

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Amidst growing uncertainty over the conduct of the 2025-26 Indian Super League (ISL) season, officials of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) will meet the CEOs of eight ISL clubs in New Delhi on Thursday.

With the Master Rights Agreement (MRA) between the AIFF and Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL) - which runs India's top flight - in limbo, heads of clubs such as Bengaluru FC, Kerala Blasters and FC Goa had written to the AIFF on July 28 seeking a meeting.

Among the biggest signs of distress is that multiple clubs have scaled back operations and even pulled out of the ongoing Durand Cup.

Odisha FC has suspended player contracts, and the JSW-owned Bengaluru FC, late on Monday, announced that it would hold back salaries of first-team players and staff until the impasse was broken.

It is to be noted that the AIFF and FSDL cannot go ahead with discussions to renew the MRA which expires this December. The Supreme Court of India, which entrusted the preparation of a new constitution for the AIFF to Justice (Retd.) L. Nageswara Rao, has barred the two parties from negotiating until it delivers the judgment in a case related to the election of AIFF office-bearers in violation of National Sports Code back in 2017.

It is also a matter of concern that in the limited parleys the AIFF and FSDL held before the SC stricture, the two football entities were not on the same page with respect to the framework of the new agreement.

It is still not clear when the SC would pronounce the judgment that it reserved on April 30.

It also remains to be seen whether the National Sports Governance Bill, set to be introduced in the Parliament by the Union Government in the ongoing monsoon session, has any bearing on the final SC-approved AIFF constitution.

TN, Karnataka teams win freestyle relays

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Tamil Nadu and Karnataka emerged the boys' and girls' Group-III freestyle relay (4x50m) champions respectively on the opening day of the 41st National sub-junior Aquatic Championships here on Monday.

The Tamil Nadu quartet of N. Rohith, Jitesh Mohana Krishnan, Mohammed Zidan Jawed and A.P. Arya Sathar clocked 1:57.07s to beat Manipur while Karnataka girls team was powered by Nyra Bopanna, J.P. Prapthi, Shwiti Diwakar Suvarna and Stuti Singh as it came home in 2:01.26s.

The victorious Karnataka Group-III freestyle relay team.

On the day, Manipur boys bagged four individual golds – Koijam Athoiba Singh (200m freestyle, 2:09.63s and 100m butterfly, 1:01.58s), Hemanshu Nahakpam (200m medley, 2:23.80s) and Maisnam Arindam Singh (100m breaststroke, 1:15.08s).

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Sahana, Varun and Himanshi triumph

Sahana Murthy defeated Tanisha Kalabhairav 8-11, 12-10, 11-5, 11-7, 6-11, 11-5 to win the women's singles title at the State-ranking table tennis tournament here on Monday.

Other results (U-19, finals):
Boys: Varun Kashyap bt Abhinav Murthy 11-5, 9-11, 10-12, 11-2, 11-7, 11-6; **Girls:** Himanshi Chowdhary bt Hiya Singh 11-8, 8-11, 11-5, 6-11, 11-6, 13-11.

Sudeep, Vinay on song

Half-centuries from Sudeep Sateri (52) and Vinay Kumar Maski (52 n.o.) helped Mount Joy CC defeat Yankees CC by seven wickets in a rain-curtailed match in the KSCA T20 tournament for G. Kasturirangan Memorial Trophy.

The scores: Chintamani SA 123/8 in 20 overs (Nischith Pai 3/24) lost to Swastic Union (1) 66/2 in seven overs [VJD method, after rain affected play].

Vijaya, Malur 137/4 in 16 overs (Premnath J. Gode 44) lost to Whirlwind Cricketers 89/1 in 8.4 overs (Sai Susheel Reddy 61 n.o.) [Target revised to 86 from nine overs because of rain].

Yankees 148/3 in 20 overs (Prathamesh D. Nayak 32, S.K. Abhishek 41 n.o., Nishant Singh Shekawat 58 n.o.) lost to Mount Joy 142/3 in 16 overs (Sudeep Sateri 52, Vinay Kumar Maski 52 n.o. [Target revised to 139 from 18 overs because of rain].

Visweswarapuram (2) 87 in 19 overs (B. Krithin 44, Vidwath Kaverappa 3/9, Kushaal Mahesh Wadhwani 3/18) lost to Sir Syed Cricketers 90/2 in 12.1 overs (B.A. Mohith 42 n.o.).

Neptune 92/9 in 20 overs lost to Palar SC, Kolar 95/1 in 9.1 overs (Abu 43 n.o., Preetesh 33 n.o.).

Social Cricketers 174/9 in 18 overs (S. Aadarsh Prajwal 39, K.V. Aneesh 37, V. Vyshak 31 n.o.) lost to Coles 116/2 in 8.5 overs (Mayank Agarwal 32, Sagar Solanki 39 n.o., K.S. Lankesh 30 n.o.) [VJD method, target revised to 114 from 11 overs after rain affected play].

Jawans 181/9 in 20 overs (Harshil 73, Nagaraj 3/36) bt The Bangalore Cricketers 49 in 8.5 overs (Dheeraj J. Gowda 4/10) [Target revised to 100 from nine overs because of rain].

BUCC (1) 168/5 in 18 overs (Lochan Appanna 62, M. Venkatesh 38, R. Kushal 3/27) bt City Gymkhana 22 for no loss in five overs [VJD method, after rain affected play].

Dooravani Cricketers (1) 96/8 in 20 overs (Deepak Devadiga 3/14, Maribasava Gowda 3/14) lost to Rajajinagar Cricketers 47/2 in five overs [Target revised to 47 from eight overs because of rain].

FUCC (1) 130/5 in 13 overs (B. Naveen Bala 40) bt Bharath 122/4 in 13 overs (Puneeth S. Pai 74 n.o.) [Match revised to 13 overs per side because of rain].

Lekha Sri scores a brace

V.G. Lekha Sri scored a brace as Maatru Pratishtana blanked Pink Panther FC 4-0 in the Karnataka Women's League here on Monday.

The results: Maatru Pratishtana FC 4 (V.G. Lekha Sri 44, 53, Tara Anand 64, K. Harita 86) bt Pink Panther FC 0; Misaka United FC 2 (Sanfida Nongrum 45, 56) bt United FC Kodagu 0.